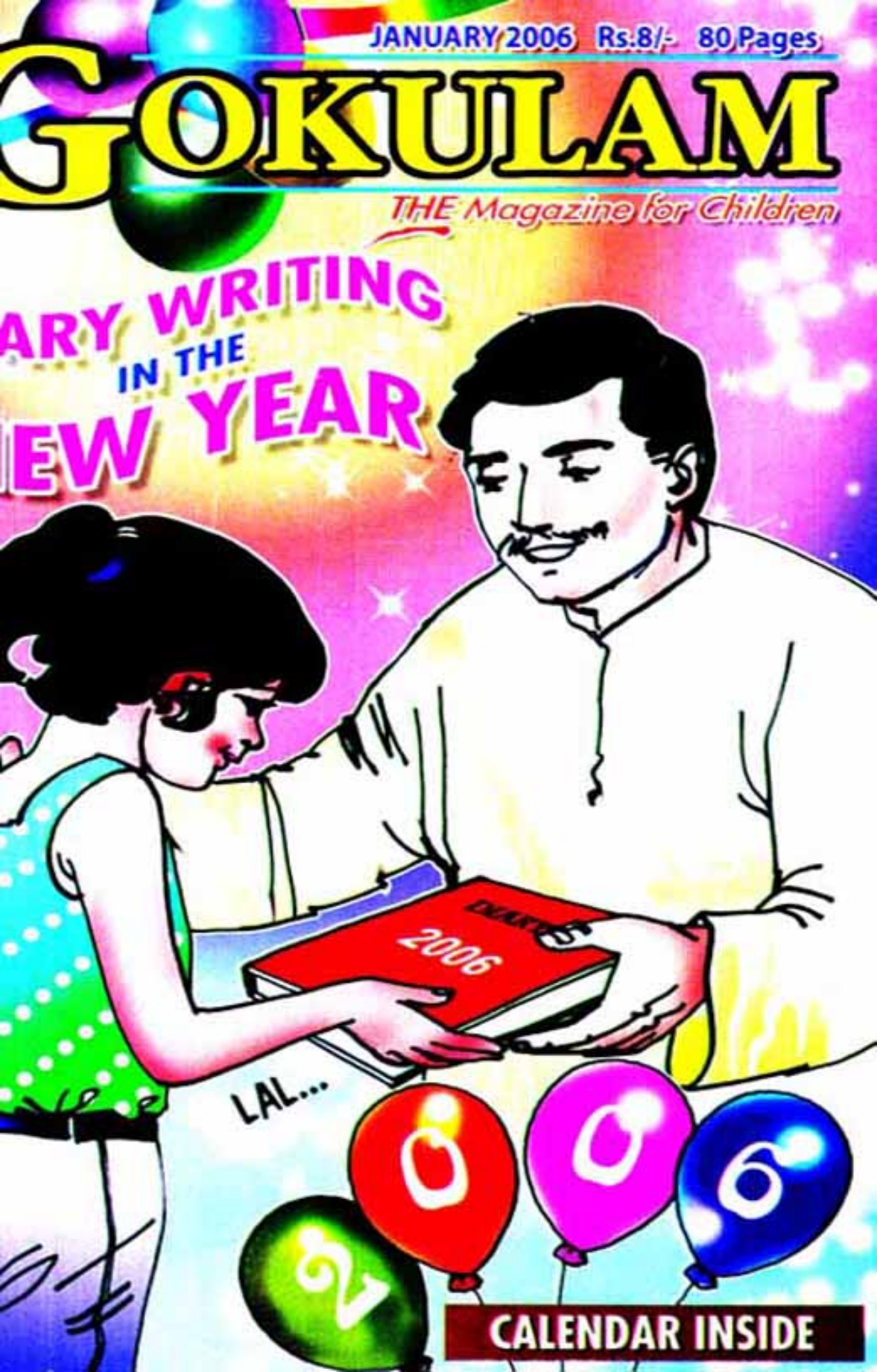
JANUARY 2006 Rs.8/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children



CALENDAR INSIDE

MILKA

WONDER CAKE

IN SIX DELICIOUS FLAVOURS

HOT 'n FRESH!

UNLIMITED FUN TOPPINGS!

SAY CHEESE!

Look forward to yet another

EXOTIC SERVING from **GOKULAM**

GOKULAM
(A Kalki Group Publication)

printed and published at
Bharathan Press
on behalf of
Bharathan Publications
Private Limited
Kalki buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 032

editor, printer and publisher :
K. Rajendran

layouts :
S. Stephen
P.R.Rajan

telephones :
2225 1522,
2225 0623,
2225 1324

fax :
044 - 2225 1021

e-mails :

editorial :
gokulam@kalkiweekly.com

subscriptions :
subscription@kalkiweekly.com

other information :
info@kalkiweekly.com

subscription rates :

Inland : annual
Rs.96/-

overseas : annual
25 US Dollars
Sri Lanka Rs.425

THE Magazine for Children

LEARN TO LAUGH!

Dear Reader,

Half yearly exams were in full swing and when I saw my neighbour's son Robin come home in the evening I asked him how he had done his exams that day. "Poorly" he said, "I may just scrape through!" He giggled.

"What are you laughing at?" I asked perplexed.

"At my own stupidity", said Robin, "I wasted my time and postponed my studies," he said with a smile!

I patted him. Here was a boy who could laugh at his own mistakes. I loved him for that. "I propose to make up for lost time" said Robin. "I won't waste the Christmas hols."

"Good luck" I said. "Let me know if I can be of some help."

Boys like Robin are hard to find these days. Laughter is missing from our daily lives. Everybody is so tense and busy.

Gone are the days of Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, Danny Kaye or Jerry Lewis. It's all Harry Potter, Star Wars, Superman, Spiderman or Batman.

The laugh - smile culture must be revived.

My wife reading this over my shoulder laughs and says "Look who's talking... or writing!"

"That's exactly the point" I assure her. "Keep Smiling' will be my New Year resolution! 'Learn to laugh' will be my motto!"

What about you, dear reader?

- Editor

JANUARY 2006
Vol. XVIII, No.7

8
NARNIA Vs POTTER MAGIC

PRIZE 12
WINNING STORY

CALENDAR 2006
40-41

NEW
COUNTDOWN
32

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

SNIPPETS

Know your BODY

★ You blink your eyes once every six seconds i.e. in the course of a lifetime you blink about 250 million times.

★ If a rope were made out of strands of long hair, it would be strong enough to lift an automobile.

★ Our brain stops growing in size when we are about 15 years old. The left side of our brain controls the right side of our body and vice versa.

★ If the liver ever stops working a person will die within 8 to 24 hours.

★ The human heart pumps 1.5 million gallons of blood a year.

★ An average person drinks about 16,000 gallons of water during his lifetime.

★ The human mouth contains more bacteria than any other orifice in the body. So, brush your teeth morning and night.

★ The chances of a mother giving birth to quadruplets is almost 1 in 6,00,000!

- S.Sai Priya,
Std.VIII,
MGC Vidyalaya,
Trichy

LAUGH A WHILE CONTEST-7

Win Rs. 100

Your imagination seems to be getting more colourful by the day! Here's a teaser! Write a funny story, in not more than 350 words, about any **'colourful festival'** (not necessarily, Holi) and send it to reach us **latest by 20.1.06.** Mention **'Laugh a While Contest - 7'** on the envelope.

Send in you entries to:
Gokulam,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

- Strictly for school going children.
- Give your name, school and residential address.
- A declaration that the story is your original creation.
- The prize winning entry will appear in the March 2006 issue of Gokulam.
- Editor's decision is final.

WISH LIST!

I read one issue of Gokulam and immediately subscribed for a year! The posters we get every month are wonderful. 'The Last Ride' in the December issue was very touching. It would be nice if you could publish stories from the Bible.

- R.Kezia Blessinda, Nagercoil

Thank you for publishing my story. My teacher told me "One story published in Gokulam is equal to hundred medals!" I bought twenty copies of the issue and gave it to my friends and teachers as a treat! Thanks for the encouragement.

- Ajay Ashok, Chennai

We were spellbound after reading the story 'The Last Ride' which was the most touching story I ever read. Keep it up Gokulam and ofcourse Pooja too!

- Fatema & Munira, Mumbai

Gokulam is an educational and entertaining magazine. It provides everything that we wish to read about. The film review in the December issue was good. The crossword puzzles are challenging. Creative Corner teaches me how to make new things. I love the posters and puranic stories too.

- Vishnu Gopan, Trivandrum

I love 'Netbits', 'Book Nook' and the hot'n exciting Potter news published every month. However the story 'God's Gift' is not original. It is from Arabian Tales. Also, in the film review, there was an error. Harry confronts a Hungarian Horntail and not a Chinese Fireball. "Potter Car Stolen" was great. Please reintroduce Potter Mania.

- Shweta J.Narayan, Pune

STORY

THE INVISIBLE DRIVER!

A man was driving from Mumbai to Pune. As he was nearing a graveyard his car broke down. He was stranded.

Having no choice he started walking on the side of the road, hoping to get a lift to the nearest town. It was dark and raining. He was wet and shivering. No car went by.

Suddenly he saw a car coming towards him. It slowed down and then stopped next to him. Next moment he opened the door and jumped in.

He turned to thank the person who had saved him when he realized there was nobody at the wheel!

The car started moving slowly. The man looked at the road ahead and saw an approaching curve. He started praying.

He was still in a state of shock, when just before he hit the curve, a hand appeared through the window and moved the wheel!

The car made the curve safely and continued on the road to the next bend. The terror stricken man watched how the hand appeared every time to get the car around each bend.

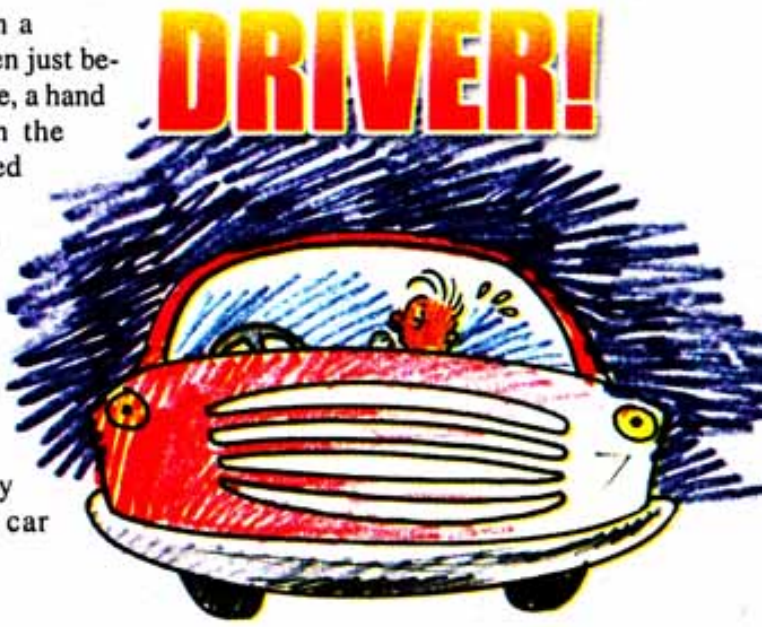
Finally, the man saw lights ahead. Gathering his courage he wrenched open the door of the silent, slowly moving car, scrambled out and ran as hard as he could towards the lights. It was a small town.

He stumbled into a dhaba, and asked for a glass of water to drink, and broke down. Then he started talking about the horrible experience he had just been through.

There was silence in the dhaba when he stopped talking...

.....and that's when Santa and Banta Singh walked into the dhaba. Santa pointed towards the man and said "Look Banta - that's the weird guy who got into our car when we were pushing it."

- Aparna Vaidyanathan, Std.X, Ryan International School, Noida

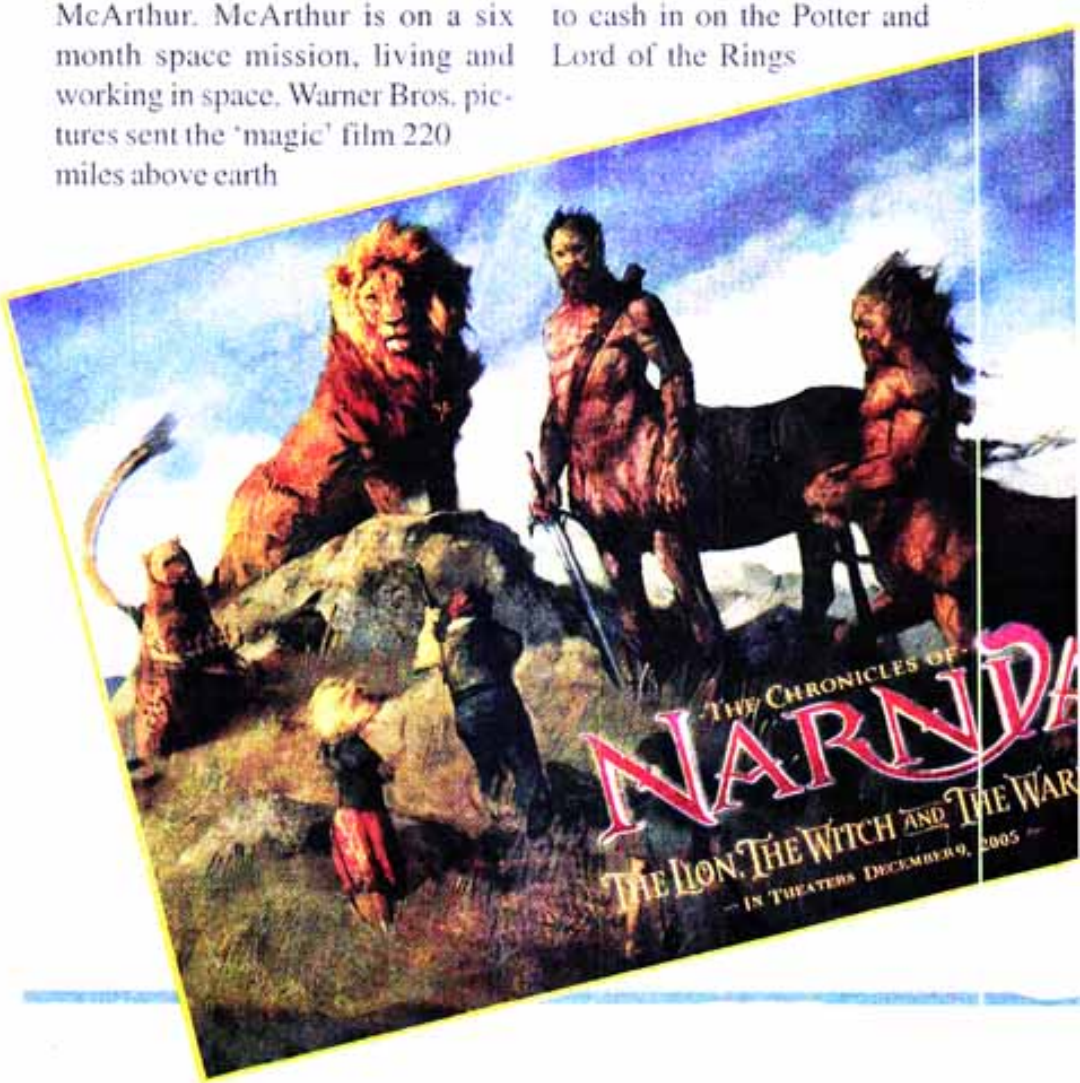


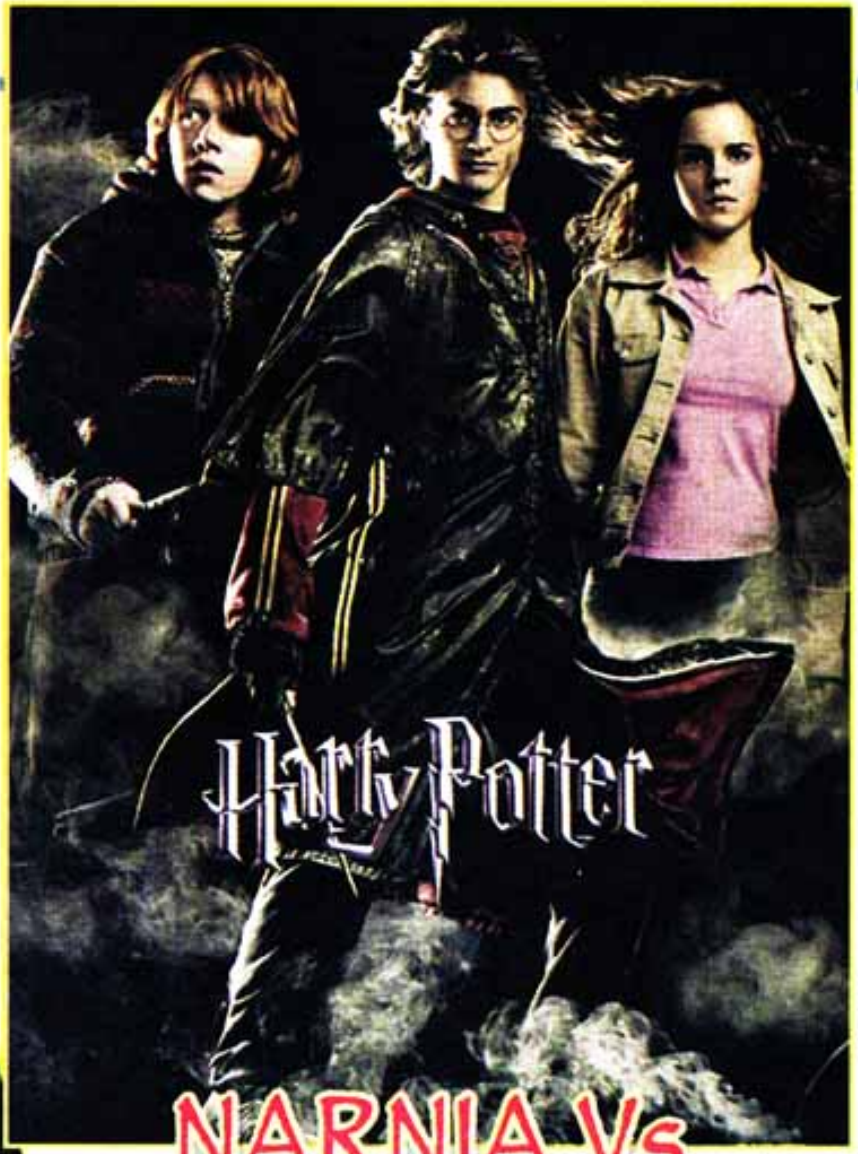
Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire crossed the $400 million mark at the world box office after its second weekend! North Americans contributed nearly half of that amount. The other top markets were Britain - $51.3 million, Germany - $35.5 million and Mexico - $13.6 million.

That's not all. Harry Potter travelled all the way to the International Space Station to entertain NASA Astronaut Commander William McArthur. McArthur is on a six month space mission, living and working in space. Warner Bros. pictures sent the 'magic' film 220 miles above earth to give McArthur a private viewing. (Jealous, aren't you?)

But hey pottermaniacs! How many of you have read C.S.Lewis' seven book Narnia series? News for those who have read them : Disney's first Narnia film - "The Chronicles of Narnia : The lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" was recently released in London.

Narnia is also based on fantasy and obviously Disney Studios hope to cash in on the Potter and Lord of the Rings





NARNIA Vs POTTER MAGIC!

craze. The first film, with an estimated production and marketing budget of $250 million is expected to capture the imagination of millions the world over with a witch, a centaur and what not!

Will Narnia magic cast its spell on the viewers? We'll just have to wait and watch, won't we? In the meantime, read up Narnia while you await the film.

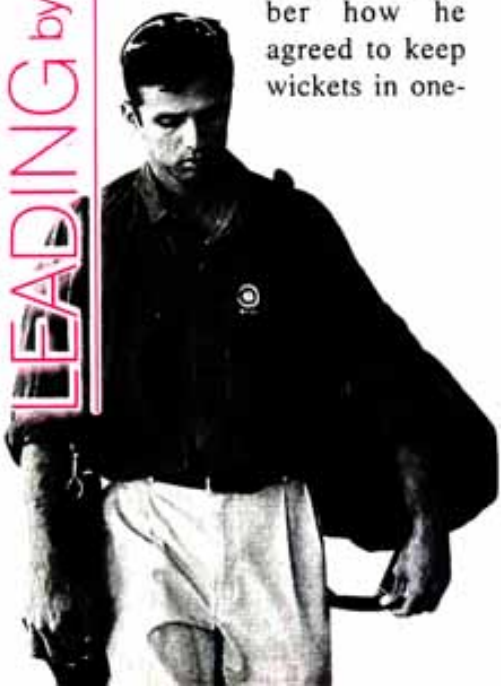
- Malu

P.N.V. RAM

LEADING by EXAMPLE

Rahul Dravid has a huge fan following. He is a role model for young boys and girls, with his clean, smart looks and heroic deeds with the cricket bat for India for nearly ten years. His fans are naturally thrilled that he is now India's captain as well. He has succeeded Sourav Ganguly in the job, and expectations are very high as Ganguly was India's most successful captain.

I am convinced that Dravid will turn out to be the best captain India has ever had. I have strong reasons to believe so. The first and foremost reason is that Rahul is the most selfless player I have known in many years of watching cricket. Remember how he agreed to keep wickets in one-day internationals for the sake of the team, even though it was a tremendous physical strain for him as one of India's main batsmen, and he did not enjoy wicketkeeping? And for years and years, he was pushed around in the batting order, and even dropped from the one-day squad, never once complaining.



Another reason why Rahul will make a good captain is that he can get on well with almost any member of the team, the coach, the press and all the people he meets in his job as captain. He knows how to get the best out of each and every teammate. He believes in appreciating and encouraging players, instead of scolding or criticising them. He also lends a sympathetic ear when a player is sad or troubled

Dravid will never ask a player to do something that he won't be prepared to do himself. He has played many a brave innings in his career and often does jobs others will run away from. See how he opened the innings in the Delhi Test the other day, when Sehwag was not fit, even though he was suffering from fever himself, and does not enjoy opening. For him, the team always comes first. He believes in leading by example. And, yes, I almost forgot to mention it—Rahul Dravid is one of the most intelligent cricketers in the world.

FOREIGN STAMPS

100 ALL DIFFERENT, ALL LARGE WHOLE WORLD, USED COMMEMORATIVE STAMP PACKET Rs.100/- BY MONEY ORDER. NO V.P.P ALL STAMPS ARE GENUINE AND CATALOGUED

T.N.K. RAMANUJAM, GE
50 / 71B, KHANPALAYAM II STREET,
MADURAI - 625 009

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

subscribe now

Name : .....

Address : .....

: .....

..... Pin : .....

Period : ☐ 1 year Rs.96/- ☐ 2 years Rs.192/- ☐ 3 years Rs.288/-

Amount enclosed : Rs. ☐ (DD/MO/Cheque* favouring 'Gokulam') * Add Rs. 20/- for Outstation cheques

The Circulation Manager
Gokulam
'Kalki Buildings',
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 097.
E-mail : subscription@kalkiweekly.com

PRIZE WINNING STORY

After another bad day at the office, Mr. Verma returned home, dog tired. At home, he was welcomed by the radio-sets, that belonged to his children, blaring away and the hulla-baloo created by the other two members of his household, Mrs. Verma and his dog Moti.

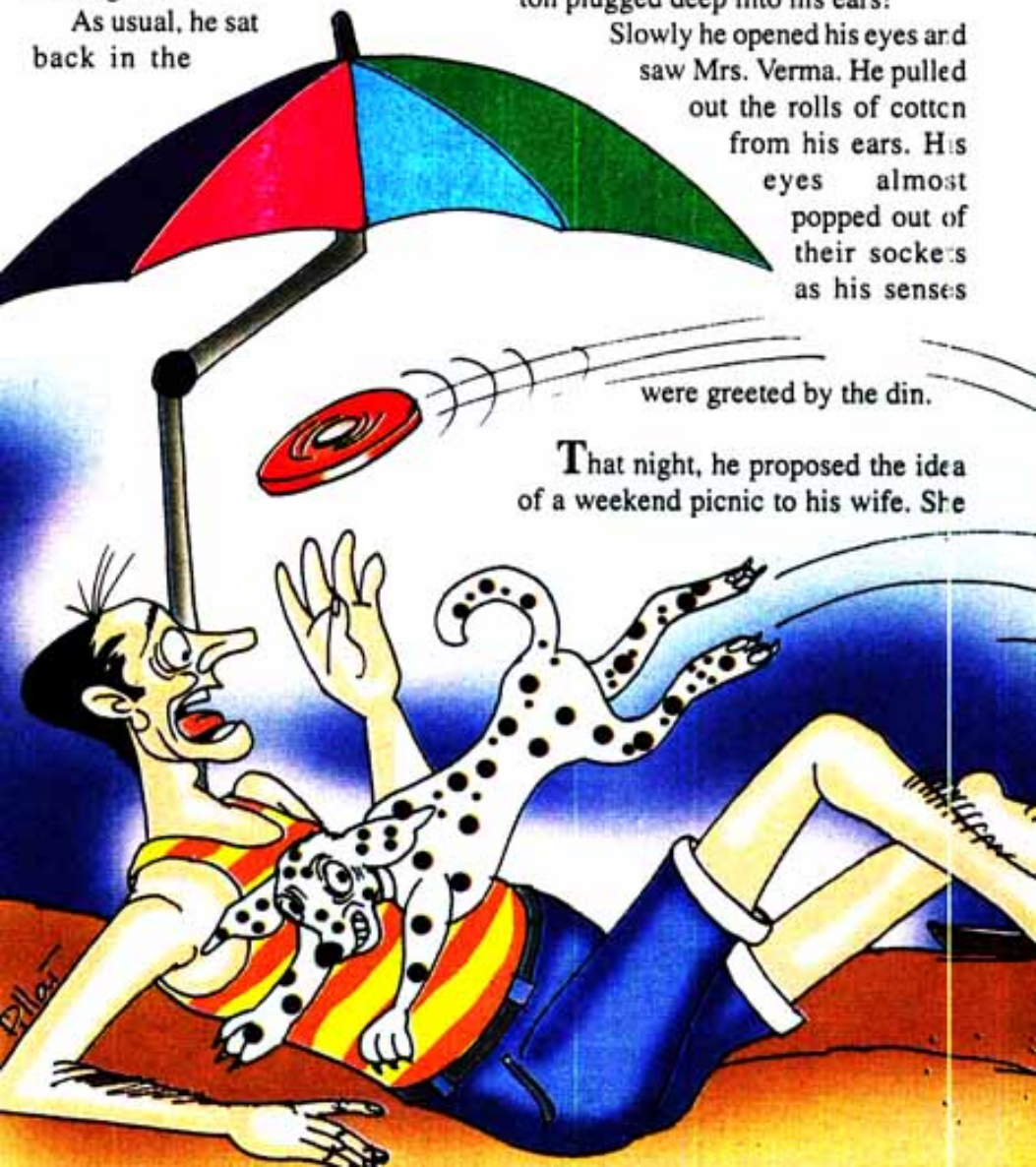
As usual, he sat back in the sofa, trying to catch a wink of sleep.

Mrs. Verma entered the room, shouting at the cook, the servants, the children and at her latest victim, Mr. Verma.

But Mr. Verma seemed oblivious to all this. His secret? Two rolls of cotton plugged deep into his ears!

Slowly he opened his eyes and saw Mrs. Verma. He pulled out the rolls of cotton from his ears. His eyes almost popped out of their sockets as his senses were greeted by the din.

That night, he proposed the idea of a weekend picnic to his wife. She



agreed to this, and the Vermas set out to the beach early in the morning on Sunday. There they selected a quiet and peaceful spot and set up their picnic.

The children began playing with Moti. They were throwing him a frisbee to see his mid-air catches. On one such throw, Moti jumped a bit too far and landed on Mr. Verma's stomach. Mr.Verma had been doing what he did best - sleeping!

"Earthquake! Tsunami! Help! Run!" cried a very startled Mr.Verma, breaking out of slumber. He stood as red as a beet, when he noticed that everyone was staring at him. He grinned sheepishly and lay down again, but not before aiming a well-directed kick at Moti.

Mrs. Verma said nothing but glared at Mr.Verma and the children, and if looks could kill...

Suddenly, there was a huge commotion. "Help! He's stolen my necklace", a woman's voice was heard.

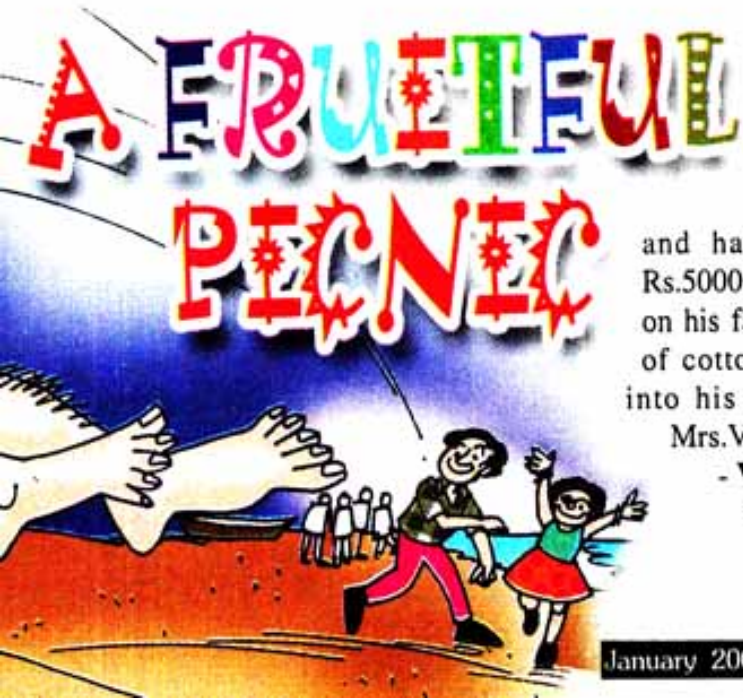
The thief was now making his way through the confused crowd. Just as he was passing by the Vermas, Mr. Verma stuck his leg out. The thief tripped and fell headlong into the sand. He was soon overpowered and taken to the nearest police station.

The diamond necklace was returned to its owner, Laila, the wife of a rich businessman. As a small token of gratitude, she gave Mr.Verma a reward of Rs.5000.

Actually, Mr.Verma had just wanted to stretch his legs a bit and this action had coincided with the thief running past him.

He had started off with a picnic and had ended up with Rs.5000 in his pocket, a smile on his face and another pair of cotton rolls stuck deep into his ears to block out Mrs.Verma's shrill voice!

- V.M. Vivek Mohan, Std.IX, St.Xavier's Collegiate School, Kolkata



NOT EVEN A

Dear Grandma,

Though I prepare very well for exams, I don't score good marks. This happens especially in Maths. Please advise.

- Sonika Nair, Chennai

I study Hindi and work very hard on the subject. But I am shocked to find that I am unable to score full marks. What should I do?

- H. Vishwanath, Kuwait

Dear Sonika and Vishwanath,

If you are sure that you have done your exams very well and that inspite of it you have not scored well, you will have to analyse the reasons. Go through your answer papers carefully. Has the teacher made any remarks in the margin? Has he underlined any words? Has he / she given any indication of the mistakes committed by you? Is your handwriting neat and legible? Did you leave out any important point while writing in a hurry? Have you written all the mathematical steps neatly? The answers for all these and more can be found in the answer papers, if you study them. If after such a study you still feel that you have not received fair treatment, you can always apply for revaluation through your class teacher.

But don't do it without being very sure of your position, since this act of yours may be misunderstood.

***

I am very sensitive. I am unable to forget my mistakes. When I try some new project, I keep telling myself that I am going to fail again! What should I do?

- V.Geethanjali, Chennai

Dear Geethanjali,

I am glad that you are unable to forget your past mistakes. It is good. On the other hand some people make light of their mistakes which is bad. One should always strive for perfection. Haven't you heard the quotation, "failures are the stepping stones to success?" Whenever you fail, you must analyse the causes and try to better yourself instead of being dejected. Think positive and you will be okay.

***

A few days ago I gave a speech in a competition, but did not get even a consolation prize. Why is this happening to me?

- N. Uma, Medak

Dear Uma,

Since you say you used "dictionary words" I infer that you gave your speech in English. But from what I can observe from your letter, your English in not upto the mark. The idiom is not good and there are several grammatical errors too. Using difficult to understand "dictionary words" won't help you. You must use simple words to express your ideas. Needless to say, your ideas too should be original, acceptable and relevant to the subject under discussion. If you are not too sure about your english, you can try out your oratorical skill in your mother tongue.

Love,
Grandmaworm

CONSOLATION PRIZE!

GUESS what's R.A.B.?

• Narcissa and Lucius Malfoy

• Sirius Black

Reasons why Regulus Black could be R.A.B :

A recent website claims that R.A.B stands for REGULUS ARCTURIUS BLACK. But then, it's just a wild guess.

Apart from Bellatrix Lestrange (whose name incidentally means "the strange" in French) and Narcissa Malfoy, Regulus is the only other member of Sirius Black's family who has been mentioned more than three times (in OOTP &HBP). Both Bellatrix and Narcissa have important roles in the story and it is only plausible that Regulus should have one too.

From what Sirius has told us about Regulus Black, he was a death eater who panicked by what he was asked to do , tried to back out and was murdered by Voldemort or his fellow death eaters.

Maybe the whole Horcrux thing was exposed to him and he destroyed it and also left the note?

Source : www.mugglenet.com

Of course, all of the above explanations seem a little dubious. Suggestions and comments are welcome.

- Aparna Vaidyanathan, Std.X, Ryan International School, Noida

Here are excerpts from history answer papers of some students of V and VI grades as published in a newspaper recently:

(1) Ancient Egypt was old. It was inhabited by gypsies and mummies who all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in Sarah dessert. The climate of the Sarah is such that all the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

(2) Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines. He was an actual hysterical figure as well as being in the Bible. It sounds like he was sort of busy too!

(3) The Greeks were a highly sculptured people and without them, we would not have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a young female moth.

(4) Socrates was a famous old Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. He later died from an overdose of wedlock which is apparently poisonous. After his death, his career suffered a dramatic decline.

(5) In the first Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled biscuits and threw the java. The games were messier than they show on TV now.

(6) Julius Ceasar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. Th Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying,

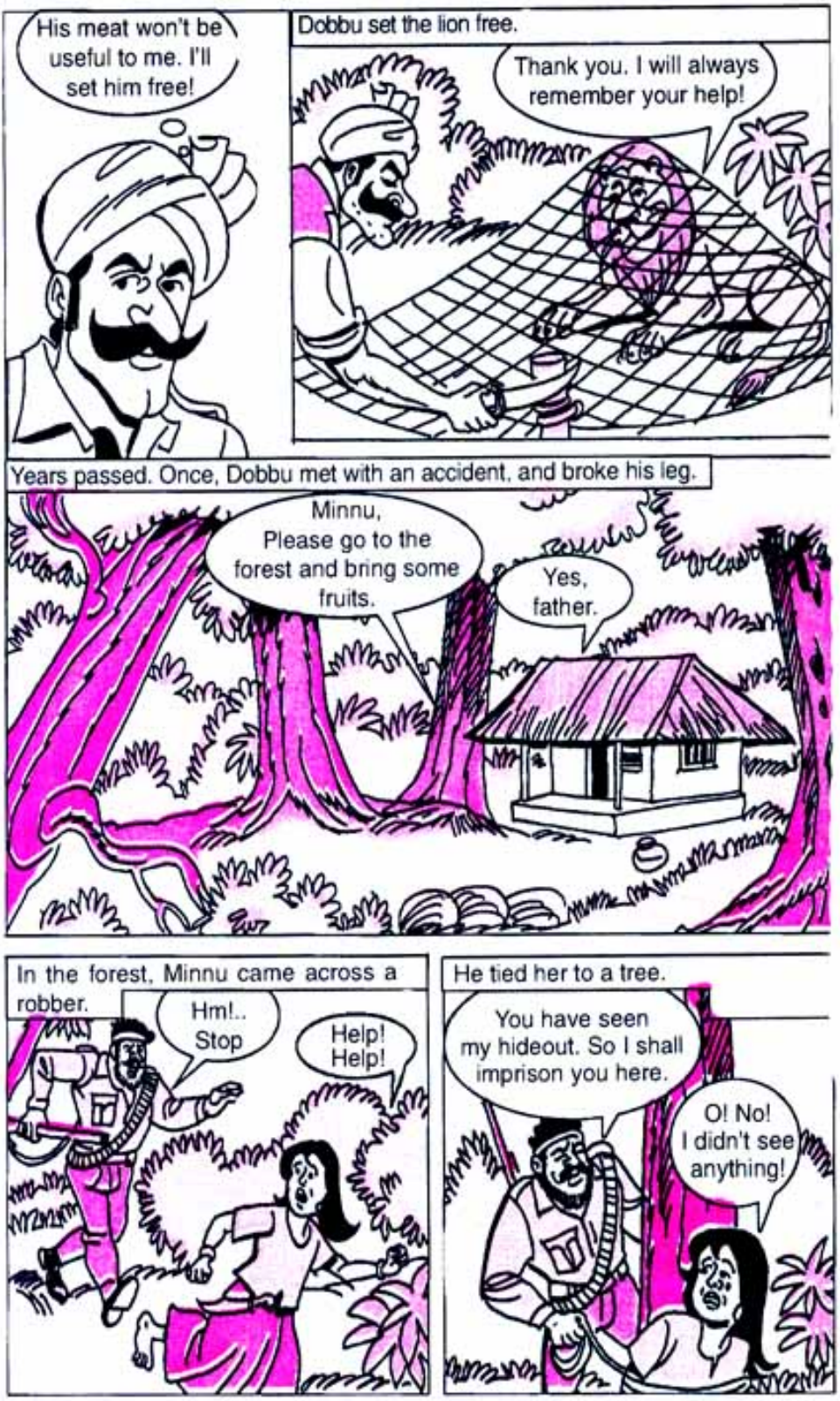
he gasped "Same to you, Brutus!"

(7) Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada but his commandos made it!"

- V. Mahadevan, Std VIII,
PSSr.Sec.School,
Chennai

KINDNESS BEGETS KINDNESS!

Venu Variath


His meat won't be useful to me. I'll set him free!
Dobbu set the lion free.
Thank you. I will always remember your help!
Years passed. Once, Dobbu met with an accident, and broke his leg.
Minnu, Please go to the forest and bring some fruits.
Yes, father.
In the forest, Minnu came across a robber.
Hm!.. Stop
Help! Help!
He tied her to a tree.
You have seen my hideout. So I shall imprison you here.
O! No! I didn't see anything!

After some time two lions came that way.
Eh... Who is this?
Ha!... Ha!... Nice meal for today.
The lion saw the dagger tied into Minnu's waist.
Eh!This dagger belongs to the hunter.
Help!
I doubt whether we should kill her!
Why?
From where did you get this dagger?
I... I am the daughter of Dobbu, the hunter. My father gave this to me.
Minnu told the lion her story.
Don't worry, little girl. We won't harm you!
Eh!

Soon-
Friends, I will never forget your help!
Please wait. We will give you a small gift.
Gift? What is it?
The lion brought a small bag for her.
Here's the gift. We got this from the robber. This contains gold coins.
I am afraid. If he sees this, he will kill me!
Don't worry! He won't disturb you any more!
Eh!
Later, in Dobbu's house -
What! A lion saved you?
Yes, father. It is the lion who saved me and gave me this gold.
When he saw the dagger, he would have known it belonged to me.
That's right.

INSPIRATIONS!

AT THE NEW SCHOOL

I joined a new school four years back. I felt totally lost and out of place because I had no friends. I worked hard even during the vacation and did very well in the half yearly exams. However when the Maths teacher returned our answer papers, I was disappointed with my marks. Suddenly, Maths 'sir' called out my name. I stood up nervously. To my surprise, he congratulated me for scoring third highest marks and also mentioned that I had scored only one mark less than the second place holder. I was pleasantly surprised when my classmates also came forward to congratulate me. I became very popular in class and from that day onwards, I have acquired several friends. Thank you, Sujeet sir!

- Tania Das, Std.IX, Pranabananda Holy Child School, Silchar, Assam

STAGE FEAR

An intra school, elocution contest was to be held in our school. Since none of the students from my class volunteered, our teacher selected a few of us to participate. She even gave us the topic beforehand and asked us to assemble at the hall the next day. I prepared well for the contest.

When it was my turn to speak, I bravely walked up to the microphone and started speaking. However, suddenly, I became very nervous and abruptly stopped midway. I started shivering. I was so

embarrassed that I rushed back to my seat. My teacher came to comfort me. I told her that I had stage fear from childhood. She held me firmly and told me, "If the Prime Minister of India were to start shivering and stuttering while in a foreign country, then what a shame it would be for the nation. So go on, there is nothing to be scared of. You are representing your class. All the best."

I went back, apologised to the judges and requested them for another chance. My teacher put in a word too. They agreed. I spoke again, confidently without faltering. I am pleased to tell the readers that the judges awarded me the third prize although I had fumbled in my first attempt. I thanked my teacher, Ms. Thangamani Thampi, who inspired me to overcome my stage fear.

- K.Keerthana, Std.VIII,
S.V.Union High School, Pune

FLUENCY

Our school was to stage a play in Hindi on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. I was selected to play the role of Devdatta in the play "Siddharth Aur Devdatta" (about Buddha's childhood). But I could hardly speak Hindi. I explained my predicament to my Hindi teacher Hema Miss. She asked me to come to her residence everyday, where she taught me the dialogues. She also taught me the language and instilled confidence in me. On the stage I spoke my dialogues boldly and correctly. Every one applauded me. I am grateful to Hema Miss, who was instrumental in making me fluent in Hindi.

- J.M.Madhu, Std.IX,
BEML High School, Kolar

GREET WITH SWEETS!

Begin the new year on a sweet note! Pray for a bountiful harvest and celebrate the harvest festival Sankranti / Pongal with these simple desserts.

CARROT CAKE

Ingredients :

Milk - 4 cups

Sugar - 3 cups

Grated and finely ground carrot - 2 cups

Ghee - 1 cup

Procedure : Mix all the ingredients. Heat on a low flame in a heavy - bottomed vessel. Keep stirring till the mixture becomes thick.

Transfer the contents into a greased tray and let it cool. Cut it into pieces (cubes) and serve.

- K.Kartik, Std.VII,
Loyola School, Trivandrum,
Kerala

SWEET PONGAL

Ingredients :

Milk - 1 cup

Rice - 1 cup

Chana dal - ½ cup

Sugar - to taste

Ghee - 1 cup

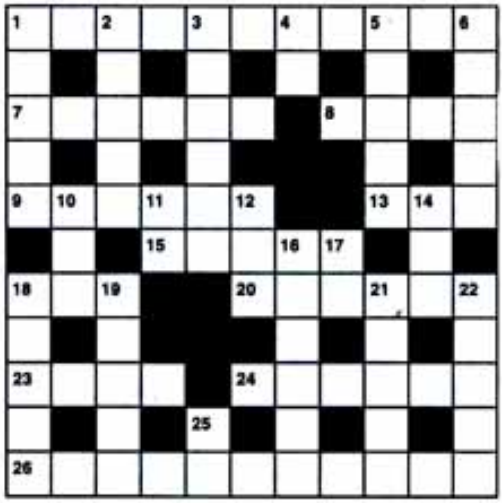
Coconut - ½

Cardamom - 4 pods

Cashews, raisins - few

Procedures : Fry rice and dal in 3 tablespoons of ghee until the mixture turns golden brown in colour. Remove from flame. Add milk, 2 cups water and sugar and cook. Chop coconut into tiny bits. Fry it with cashew and raisins in the remaining ghee. Pour into the rice-dal-milk (pongal) mixture. Cook, stirring continuously for two minutes. Add cardamom and serve hot.

- S.Prudivya, Std.VII,
Holy Cross Kapa, Raipur, C.G.



KRISH 7 CROSS

Clues Across

1. Auspicious annual beginning date (3, 5, 3)

7. Person who stitches your dress or with monkey's appendage in front (6)

8. The biggest continent (4)

9. What the postman drops in your letter box; one who rents out (6)

13. A number of games in tennis-fixed? (3)

15. Yogic exercise from a NASA contortion (5)

18. Is past-saw back (3)

20. Looked from concealed place. What Tom was caught doing (6)

23. Tomato _____ served to start a meal. Could be opus (4)

24. Vishnu's Vahana-Indonesian Airlines (6)

26. All roads lead to Rajpath, Delhi for Parade on this National Holiday (8, 3)

Clues Down

1. S. African province, scene of Gandhiji's early Satyagraha (5)

2. Where the watch is worn (5)

3. See rod bent and it wears out (6)

4. Right, in short (2)

5. Shake sodas for tasty S. Indian Pancakes (5)

6. Where the sun rises, it may sound, but used for fermenting or raising dough (5)

10. Are crazy in a historical period (3)

11. Territorial Army, if repeated, good-bye! (2)

12. A ____ on the pad, a shout goes up for LBW (3)

14. The first lady apple-eater, in Eden (3)

16. Belongs to Himalayan Kingdom, deriving from Alpine (6)

17. Assistant Engineer as known in PWD (1, 1)

18. Some are _____ after the event. More intelligent perhaps (5)

19. Wicket keeper crouches behind it, bails on it (5)

21. English currency unit/weight (5)

22. Where you record daily your experiences and observations, sounds like a milk plant though (5)

25. Tuberculosis as it is commonly known (1, 1)

Note : 1. Figure in bracket indicates no. of letters

2. Watch out for anagrams-jumbling of letters to solve the clue.

Devised by : **A.Krishnaswami**

ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies. **Last Date : 12.1.2006**

Congratulations!

The five lucky winners are:

1. D.Harish, Std.X, Montessori Hostels, Guntakal. A.P.
2. Aparna Gopalan, Std.VI, Sophia Sr. Sec. School, Ajmer, Rajasthan
3. S.Niranjana, Std.VIII, Cochin Refineries School, Tripunithura, Kochi
4. Vivek P. Bavishi, Std.XI, Bhartiya Vidya Mandir, Nagpur
5. Saranya J.Lakshmi, Std.XI, Alagappa Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Karaikudi, T.N.

Solution to Krish Cross - 6

W	I	N	T	E	R		X	M	A	S
A		O		A		F		E		P
L	I	V	E	R		A	C	C	R	A
E		E		N	A	N		C		C
S	I	L	V	E	R		M	A	L	E
	M			R	O	B			I	
D	A	M	E		S	A	U	C	E	R
U		A		D	E	N		A		I
M	I	N	E	R		A	D	D	E	D
A		G		Y		N		E		G
S	N	O	W		C	A	S	T	L	E

WORKING PRESIDENT!

Born to a poor dalit family, he inherited the country's highest constitutional post. Kocheril Raman Narayanan was born in 1921 to an extremely deprived family in Uzhavoor village in the erstwhile princely State of Travancore. His story is one of struggle, intelligence, will power and courage.

After studying in a local primary school, he enrolled in an English medium high school at Kuravilangad, eight kilometres away, He often covered the distance on foot. It was with great difficulty that his father payed the school fees. He occasionally received financial help from Gandhiji's Harijan Sevak Sangh. His family was so poor that they could not even afford text books. His brother would borrow text books from others and copy them down for him.

He obtained a first class in B.A. and M.A. from the University of Travancore in English Literature. However due to caste discrimination he was denied a permanent teaching job at the university. He was deeply hurt by this and boycotted the convocation ceremony, refusing his degree certificate.

When his application for a scholarship to study abroad was accepted by the J.N. Tata Endowment, he went to London for further studies. Mr. Narayanan returned to India after securing the London School of Economics' prized B.Sc. (Econ.) with a rare first division.

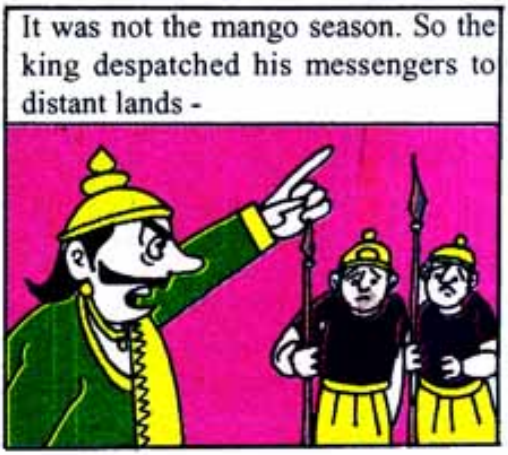
He joined the Indian Foreign service in 1949 as a young diplomat and from then on there was no looking back. He served as the Indian Ambassador to China and the United States of America. In 1984 he entered parliamentary politics and in 1992 he became the Vice President of the country. In 1997, Mr. Narayanan took office as the 10th President of India. In his own words he was "not an executive president, but a working president and working within four corners of the constitution".

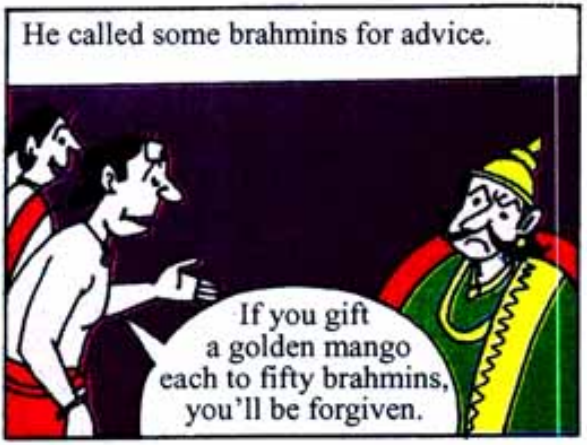
President Narayanan was a brilliant example of a man who made his office rather than have his office make him!

- Avantika, Std.X,
Vidya Mandir, Chennai

TENALI RAMA ATONES!

Story : **Anusham, Bangalore** Pic : **Pillai**





Prepare a grand feast for fifty brahmins. I want my mother's soul to rest in peace.
The brahmins had to pass Tenali Rama's house enroute to the palace.
Please come in for a minute.
My mother also died without her last wish being fulfilled. She wanted a heated iron rod on her body.
Please scald yourself.
No!
Oh no!
Never!
Those of you who accept this will get an extra mango.
The Brahmins were tempted.
Ah!
When the king gifted only one mango, the brahmins protested.
If I had not offered the incentive you would not have scalded yourself. Now both the mothers' souls can rest in peace.

HEART BEATS!

● **K. Mohandoss, Kochi.**

? What does a doctor listen to when he puts his stethoscope to our heart?

! Through the stethoscope, the doctor can hear the opening and closing of valves in the heart chambers. He can detect any leakage of blood inside the chambers (through the valves) between the beats. He can also monitor the number of beats per minute and detect any abnormality in the rhythm. He hears all these in the "Lub'dub, lub'dub" sound of the heart!

● **Ananya Mishra, Bhubaneswar**

? Can lack of sleep cause eye pain, weakness, headache and dark circles under the eyes?

! Sleep is an absolute physiological need of the human body. Good sleep is essential for good health and integrity of body, mind, soul, spirit and environment. Sleeping too much and sleeping too less are equally hazardous. The amount of sleep a person needs varies with the nature of his work and physical activity. Normally we need 7 to 8 hours of sleep daily. Lack of sleep may cause some problems during the day such as sleepiness, weakness, eye pain, headache, difficulty in concentration and irritability.

● **P.Abhinaya, Chennai**

? I have been suffering from asthma for the past two years. I

regularly use inhalers. The severity has still not reduced. What am I to do? Can it be cured?

! Asthma is a chronic lung disease that causes restricted breathing due to inflammation of bronchial tubes(the main air passages) in the lungs. Three changes occur in the air passages of asthmatics. They are : inflammation, swelling and mucus formation. Inflammation leads to constriction of the muscles around the air tubes. They become narrow causing difficulty in breathing. Allergy is the main cause for asthma.

House dust, pollen from grasses, animal dander from pets like cats and dogs, fungi from moist air, insects like cockroaches and some types of food and chemicals act as allergens to cause asthma. One cannot be cured, but the condition can be treated. Generally inhalers help. Consult a pulmonologist who will advise you on allergy control, diet management and breathing exercises, to prevent further attacks of asthma.

● **E.Aravindan, Coimbatore**

? Why is body temperature abnormal during fever?

! Our body temperature is controlled by the hypothalamus in the brain. It is the thermostat of our body. Normal body temperature is 98.6°F. The increase in the temperature is called fever. It occurs in response to any infection caused by micro-organisms such as bacteria, virus, protozoa and fungi. For example, if a person is infected with bacteria, the white blood cells in the blood start the immune response to fight against the infection. In this reaction, they release a variety of proteins. One among them is called cytokine which increases the production of a chemical known as prostaglandin in the brain. It reacts with the hypothalamus and in turn the hypothalamus increases the body temperature. ●

NEW COUNTDOWN - 1

FIRE IN THE FOURTH FLOOR

When his mother said, "Tarun, will you take these sweets to Madhav uncle" Tarun readily agreed.

Nearly six kilometers separated the houses of Tarun and his uncle. Madhav always loved his nephew, Tarun, aged twelve and Tarun had great regard for his uncle, who was working as a leading fireman.

Tarun knew that his uncle would be at the Fire station at that time. He felt happy going to that place. He had a hundred questions to ask of his uncle.

Madhav was equally happy to see his nephew. He greeted Tarun and was glad to eat a few of the home made sweets sent by his sister. He shared them with his colleagues and offered one to Tarun.

Tarun saw Madhav in khaki uniform. "You look like a soldier, uncle", he admired.

Madhav smiled. "In a way, we are soldiers" he said. He went on to add, "We have to be always alert Tarun. Emergencies, by their very nature, can occur at anytime"

Tarun looked around and asked, "Uncle, I was told that if there is a fire in our neighbourhood, we should dial 101. How do you proceed when you are informed of a fire accident?"

"The gulab jamuns are delicious Tarun. You can have one more" offered Madhav before answering.

"Actually we at the fire stations do not receive the emergency calls.. They will be received at the Control room. This room is the heart of our organisation. It is connected to all the fire stations in the city. The officer who receives the emergency call will immediately alert the nearest fire stations."

At this juncture, the continuous clanging sound of a bell was heard.

Madhav immediately thrust the box with the remaining sweets in the hands of Tarun and proceeded to-

wards the fire engine. Not just Madhav, five more persons were also converging towards the vehicle. A driver immediately occupied his seat and switched on the engine.

Tarun knew that an emergency situation had arisen somewhere. "Uncle, can I come with you?", he asked. Madhav, who hesitated at first, nodded. Tarun immediately threw him-

self into the vehicle.

Tarun was very upset. His mood was gloomy. But to his surprise he found that the entire crew in the vehicle including his uncle was very composed. Tarun was reminded of the proverb 'Haste makes waste'

The crew consisted of a station fire officer, a leading fire officer (who was Madhav) and four firemen. While the vehicle was progressing speedily through the traffic with continuous ringing of an alarm bell, the crew members wore their helmets. They checked their hoses. A small water tank was also traveling with them.

"Uncle, is this water sufficient?"

"What you see here is 4500 litres of water, Tarun. If, on reaching the spot, we feel that the fire could not be extinguished with this water we will contact the Metro water department to rush with their water lorries and each such lorry contains 9000 litres of water"

Ten minutes passed by and the vehicle stopped. Madhav jumped out of the vehicle and the others followed. Madhav swept into action He assessed the damage to the huts and made sure that no one was caught in the fire.

The firemen started focusing their hoses over the fire. Water started flowing with great speed and at high pressure. Tarun was looking with admiration at their spontaneous coordination.

"We're fortunate", a fireman murmured.

'What is fortunate in a fire accident?' Tarun started wondering.

Madhav read his mind and said, "The wind is slow today. If it had been blowing fast, the fire would have spread to more huts and caused more damage."

The job was finished.

"Do you know Tarun, if there is a fire accident in a petrol bunk, we will not use water. It will only aggravate the fire. We will use only foam."

"Madhav, you can tell your nephew about our experience dur-

Father (after a trip to the beach) : Where are the pretty sea shells I collected?

Raj : I left them behind at the beach.

Father : Why?

Raj : Mom always tells me to put things back in their own place!

- R.M. Unnikrishnan, Std.VIII, Navi Mumbai

Leela : Mummy, why is your hair turning white?

Mummy : Because of the worries you cause me.

Leela : Then you must have been a terrible worry for grandma!

- S.Aishwarya, Std.VII, Bangalore

ing the recent tsunami when we saved many lives", hinted a fireman who was sitting next to him.

Tarun was indeed surprised. "But you work for the fire department don't you?" he asked.

Madhav replied : "Saving lives is our mission. We do not restrict ourselves to fire accidents. Last week we saved a boy who fell into a deep well. Do you know Tarun, the name of our department has been changed as "Fire and Rescue Department."

Tarun was very happy to get all the information.

The same evening the crew was involved in another rescue operation.

Thick clouds were coming out of the fourth floor of a tall building.

A crowd had gathered near the entrance of the building and a woman was crying, "please save my daughter. She is trapped."

The fire crew quickly assessed the situation and decided that the balcony was the best way to enter. A long ladder was used and Madhav started climbing.

While Madhav entered the fourth floor through the balcony, other members of the crew aimed at quenching the fire with their hoses gushing out water.

Anxious seconds ticked by. At last Madhav came out of the balcony. He was wearing a breathing apparatus and carrying in his hands, six year old Pushpa, who was a bit charred and semi concious. "She'll be okay" said Madhav as he handed over the girl to her mother. The latter thanked him profusely. Tarun was very proud of his uncle.

He ran towards him. But Madhav, without even glancing towards Tarun, climbed up the ladder again and went inside the same flat.

Not just Tarun, but other firemen were also amazed.

When Madhav came out after a minute or two, Tarun was thrilled. His uncle had a cat in his hands!

Tarun went and hugged Madhav uncle. The fire resistant dress felt like velvet. As smooth as his services. ●

THE PROUD BIRD

Story : **Manmathan** *Pic* : **Mahesh**

Hmm... Fool! Thinks he's the greatest. He should be taught a lesson!

One day it rained heavily. The fox decided that this was the right time to teach the bird a lesson.
O, strong bird! Please solve our problem.

This pot - hole is full of water.
Not to worry! I'll drain the water and dispose it off elsewhere.

Although the bird was at it the whole day, it could not drain out the water.
O dear! I can't do this. I'll never be proud again.

Fall of the last Bench!

When I was in Std.V, one day I was feeling terribly bored during the science period. So were my two bench mates. We were the best of friends and always occupied the last bench. I started tilting my bench back and forth. My bench mates joined me in this crazy game. The teacher did not notice us as she droned on and on. The other students were absolutely quiet.

"CRASH!" Suddenly our bench crashed to the floor. I thought my friends were holding on to it, so I had momentarily let go. By chance my friends had also let go at the same time and we were all in an embarrassing situation. Needless to say, we were punished by the teacher, and our classmates, have not talked to us about the incident ever since!

- Sowmitha Shankar, Std.IX, DNGC Public School, Karaikal

Lucky Escape

We reside in Delhi very close to Sarojini Nagar market. We go to the market often in the evenings for shopping.

On October 29th, my parents and I went to the market because my mother wanted to buy bedsheets and pillow covers. We checked out a row of shops selling bed linen but did not find anything worthwhile. Meanwhile my father suggested that we

could go over to another section of the market selling dry fruits. My mother refused. She insisted upon going to a few shops we had missed out in the row since she wanted the bedlinen the very same day.

We trodded back down the same lane. Soon there was a loud bang. For a moment the whole market had come to a standstill. My father hurried us out of the market. When we looked back, we saw black smoke blanketing the market and chaos all around.

We came to know that a bomb blast had taken place and but for my mother's insistence, we would have been at the dry fruit shops which were blown up in the blast and we could have been victims. By the grace of god we survived.

- T.G.Lakshmi Priya, Std.XII, Green Fields Scnool, New Delhi.

Joy of Sharing!

We went to Madurai when I was eight years old. There we visited 'Azhagar Koil' (temple of Lord Vishnu). After darshan while we were having our lunch, a monkey came very close to me. I was scared. However, when it raised its hands and begged me for food, I offered an idli to it. The monkey took it along and distributed the idli to other monkeys and came back to us for more! I was amazed and gave it some more idlis. The monkey once again parted with most of the idlis and tasted the idli only after feeding the other monkeys. That day I realised that even animals share their food!

- K.Shanthi, Tiruvarur

GOKULAM
THE Magazine for Children
2006
JANUARY
Mon 30 2 9 16 23
Tue 31 3 10 17 24
Wed 4 11 18 25
Thu 5 12 19 26
Fri 6 13 20 27
Sat 7 14 21 28
Sun 1 8 15 22 29
JULY
Mon 31 3 10 17 24
Tue 4 11 18 25
Wed 5 12 19 26
Thu 6 13 20 27
Fri 7 14 21 28
Sat 1 8 15 22 29
Sun 2 9 16 23 30

ARY			
	13	20	27
	14	21	28
	15	22	
	16	23	
	17	24	
	18	25	
	19	26	

MARCH					
MON		6	13	20	27
TUE		7	14	21	28
WED	1	8	15	22	29
THU	2	9	16	23	30
FRI	3	10	17	24	31
SAT	4	11	18	25	
SUN	5	12	19	26	

APRIL					
MON		3	10	17	24
TUE		4	11	18	25
WED		5	12	19	26
THU		6	13	20	27
FRI		7	14	21	28
SAT	1	8	15	22	29
SUN	2	9	16	23	30

MAY					
MON	1	8	15	22	29
TUE	2	9	16	23	30
WED	3	10	17	24	31
THU	4	11	18	25	
FRI	5	12	19	26	
SAT	6	13	20	27	
SUN	7	14	21	28	

JUNE					
MON		5	12	19	26
TUE		6	13	20	27
WED		7	14	21	28
THU	1	8	15	22	29
FRI	2	9	16	23	30
SAT	3	10	17	24	
SUN	4	11	18	25	

JST			
	14	21	28
	15	22	29
	16	23	30
	17	24	31
	18	25	
	19	26	
	20	27	

SEPTEMBER					
MON		4	11	18	25
TUE		5	12	19	26
WED		6	13	20	27
THU		7	14	21	28
FRI	1	8	15	22	29
SAT	2	9	16	23	30
SUN	3	10	17	24	

OCTOBER					
MON	30	2	9	16	23
TUE	31	3	10	17	24
WED		4	11	18	25
THU		5	12	19	26
FRI		6	13	20	27
SAT		7	14	21	28
SUN	1	8	15	22	29

NOVEMBER					
MON		6	13	20	27
TUE		7	14	21	28
WED	1	8	15	22	29
THU	2	9	16	23	30
FRI	3	10	17	24	
SAT	4	11	18	25	
SUN	5	12	19	26	

DECEMBER					
MON		4	11	18	25
TUE		5	12	19	26
WED		6	13	20	27
THU		7	14	21	28
FRI	1	8	15	22	29
SAT	2	9	16	23	30
SUN	3	10	17	24	31

STANDING

We all know that Bhagwan Mahavira was the founder of Jainism. Some of us have read about Jain Tirthankaras. Well, the first among the Jain Tirthankaras was Rishabhadev also known as Adinatha.

Adinatha had two sons, Bharat and Bahubali. Bharat, the elder son was very ambitions and conquered all the kingdoms of India. However when he returned home, he realised that Bahubali ruled over Takshashila. He marched with his army to defeat his brother. Long battles were fought, many lives were lost but there was no decisive outcome. So the brothers decided to fight duels in the three traditional martial arts - drisht yudha, jalyudha and malyudha.

Bahubali won the first two duels and was on the verge of striking his brother with his fist when he realised that he might kill him. 'Why should I kill my brother?' he thought. He wept. "Take my kingdom. I am not going to gain anything other than external wealth and happiness", he told his brother.

Bahubali became a monk, gave up his wealth, clothing, everything and undertook severe penance. So deeply was he engrossed in meditation that creepers grew around him and entwined his body. Birds built their nests in his matted hair and beard. The real reason Bahubali took to meditation was not a thirst for Truth - it was ego! Bahubali did not want to be subservient to anybody, not even his father and other senior monks. He resolved to attain supreme knowledge but he did not succeed. His ego stopped him from gaining knowledge from his superiors.

Bahubali's two sisters Brahmi and Sundari were nuns. They asked their father Rishabhdev, why Bahubali could not attain 'Keval Gnana'. He told them that the moment Bahubali's ego vanished, he would be enlightened. The sisters approached Bahubali and sang hymns requesting him to step down from the elephant's back.

They sang all day and late into the night and slowly Bahubali became

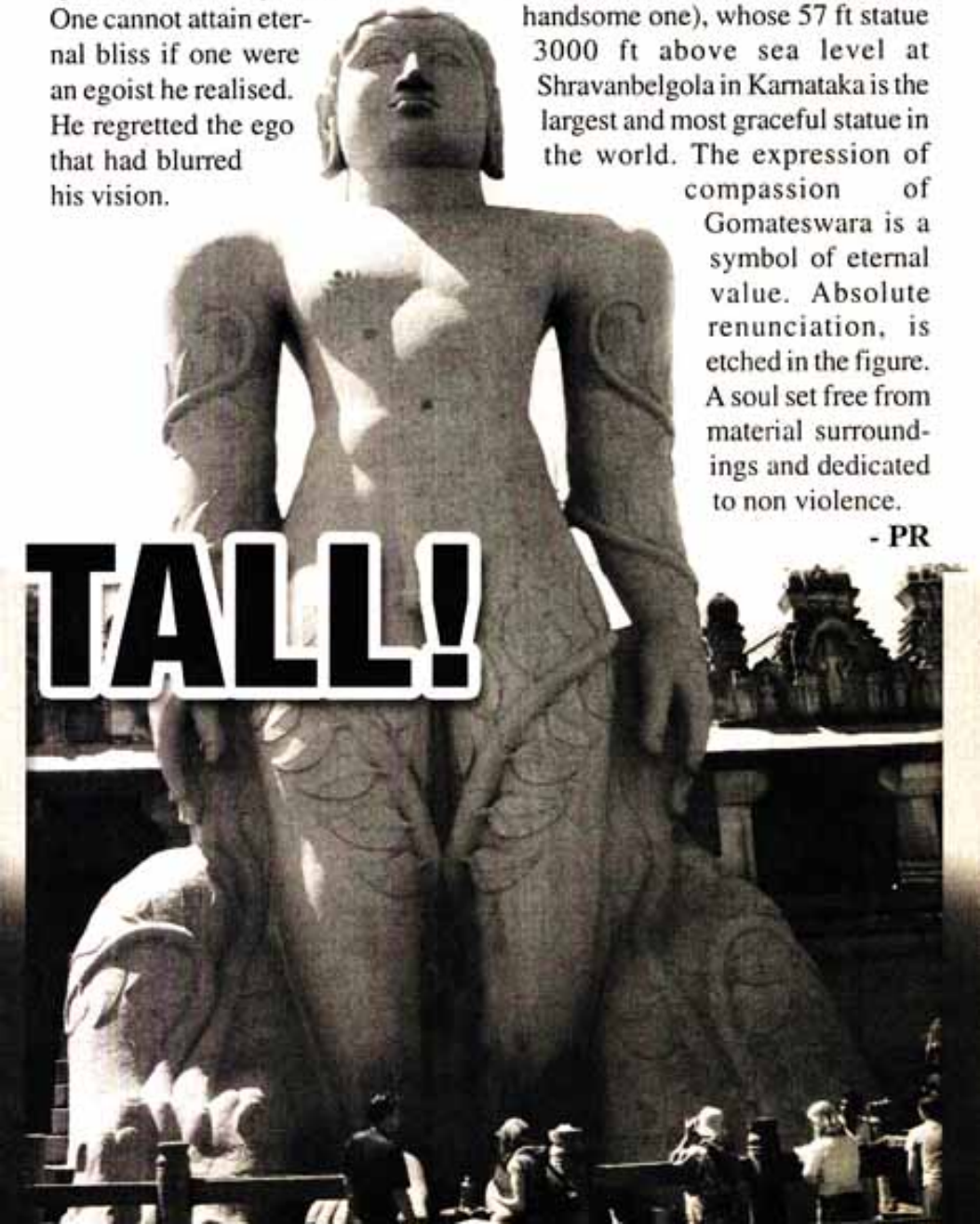
conscious of them. "Am I riding an elephant? Where is the elephant?" he wondered.

Suddenly the meaning of the song became clear to him. Ego (pride) was the elephant. One cannot attain eternal bliss if one were an egoist he realised. He regretted the ego that had blurred his vision.

He stepped out to pay obeisance to Bhagwan Rishabhdev. Truth and enlightenment dawned upon him and he began teaching and showing people the right path.

Bahubali is none other than Gomateshwara (Gommata means the handsome one), whose 57 ft statue 3000 ft above sea level at Shravanbelgola in Karnataka is the largest and most graceful statue in the world. The expression of compassion of Gomateswara is a symbol of eternal value. Absolute renunciation, is etched in the figure. A soul set free from material surroundings and dedicated to non violence.

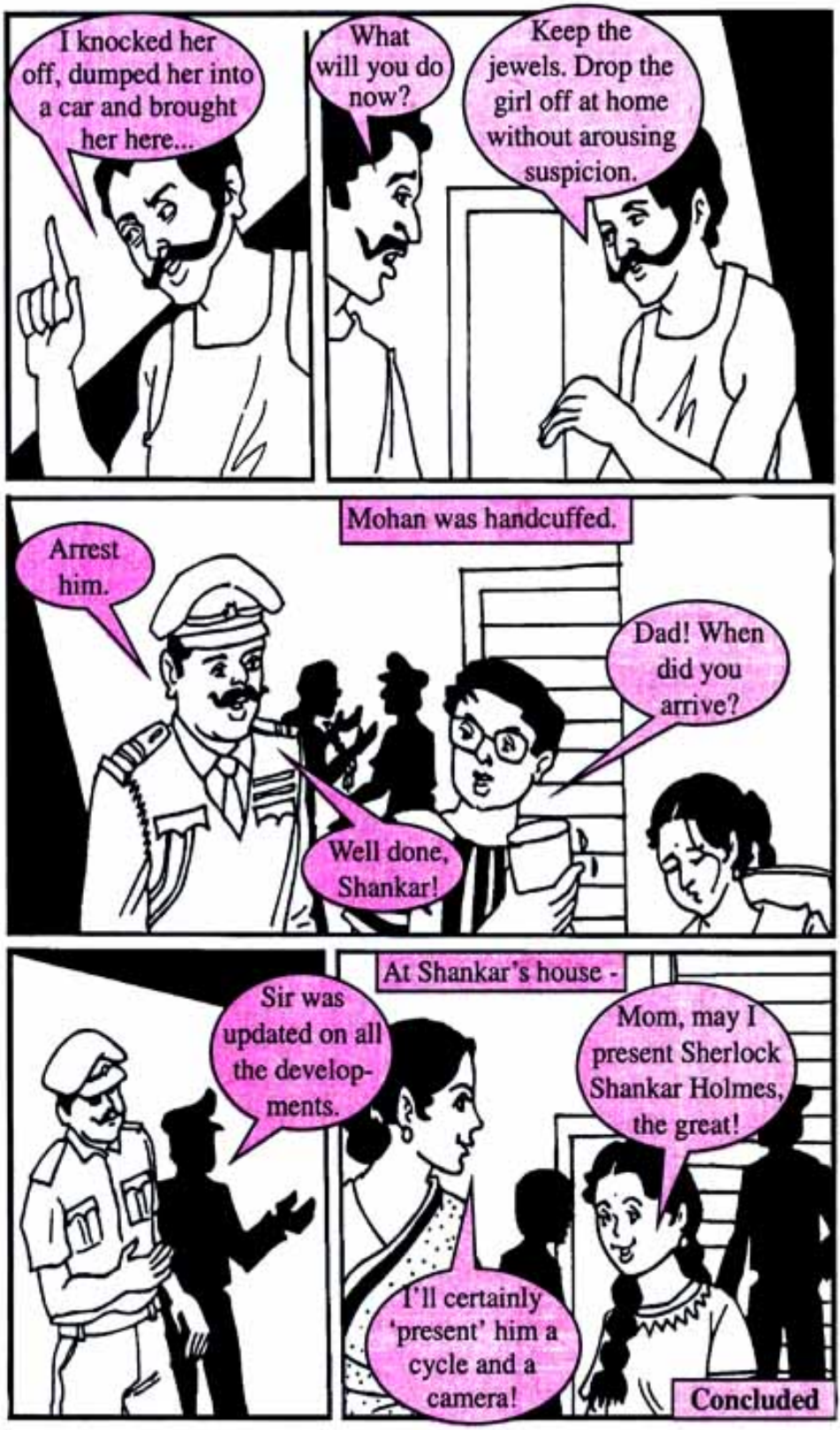
- PR



6
SHERLOCK SHANKAR HOLMES
Story : Maayuran Pic : Ramki
Shankar rushed to the theatre along with two policemen.
Madan cycled down from the theatre.
Let's follow him in the jeep. He mustn't know...
At Mohan's house -
Is Mohan back?
No uncle.
Knock, knock!

Madan opened the door. The policemen entered.
Hands up! Don't move!
Lead us to Mohan. Or else, you will be prosecuted for being an accomplice.
He'll be here soon.
He won't. We'll have to go to Gandhinagar.
You?
The jeep proceeded to Gandhinagar.

Outside the house -
You go in first and talk to him. And.... you dare not tell him that we're here.
Uncle! How come, you're here?
Why did you have to do all this?
O! I didn't mean to kidnap her. Only the jewellery...
I overheard her at the theatre. She was to go to the bank... alone. I plotted.
I checked on the phone. I jotted down her number when they were talking to each other.
Why did you bring her here?
I tried to dupe her and take away the jewel box. But she raised an alarm.


I knocked her off, dumped her into a car and brought her here...
What will you do now?
Keep the jewels. Drop the girl off at home without arousing suspicion.
Mohan was handcuffed.
Arrest him.
Dad! When did you arrive?
Well done, Shankar!
Sir was updated on all the developments.
At Shankar's house -
Mom, may I present Sherlock Shankar Holmes, the great!
I'll certainly 'present' him a cycle and a camera!
Concluded

READ LESS

The *Runaway Peppercorn* and *Malli.*

You kids are lucky! Perhaps in many ways, but here is one great reason : today you children have so many lovely books written specially for you! In the times of your great grandfathers, kids had very few books to read. Even the few they had were simple stories, with very few pictures.

"'And what is the use of a book without pictures or conversations?' asks Alice, the famous girl from Lewis Carroll's story "Alice in Wonderland". Now here are books with big pictures and very little writing!

The Runaway Peppercorn is the story of a smart little peppercorn (kurumilagu). In simple words we read about Milagu's escape from Ammini Kutty Amma's spice box and its adventures all over a little Kerala village. We meet different kinds of people in the village. Some Malayalam words are used (with meanings). There are beautiful pictures to show us a few areas of Kerala.

This book is written by Suchitra Ramadurai. It won the Commonwealth Short Story Competition from among 37000 entries! You may have heard Suchitra's voice on Radio Mirchi, as she is a radio jockey too. This book is available in Tamil and English and other Indian languages too. Illustrations are by Ashok Rajagopalan. Published by Tulika, it is priced at Rs 100.

Some of the other books published by Tulika are also full of pic

tures and the text is brief. Besides, in some books the story is told both in English and Indian languages. *Malli* has both Tamil and English in the same book. It is the story of a simple village girl, Malli. Her uncle and his family, from the city are on a visit to her village. She wants to greet them with gifts but has only one rupee. However, as she sets off on her way, her little basket slowly fills up...

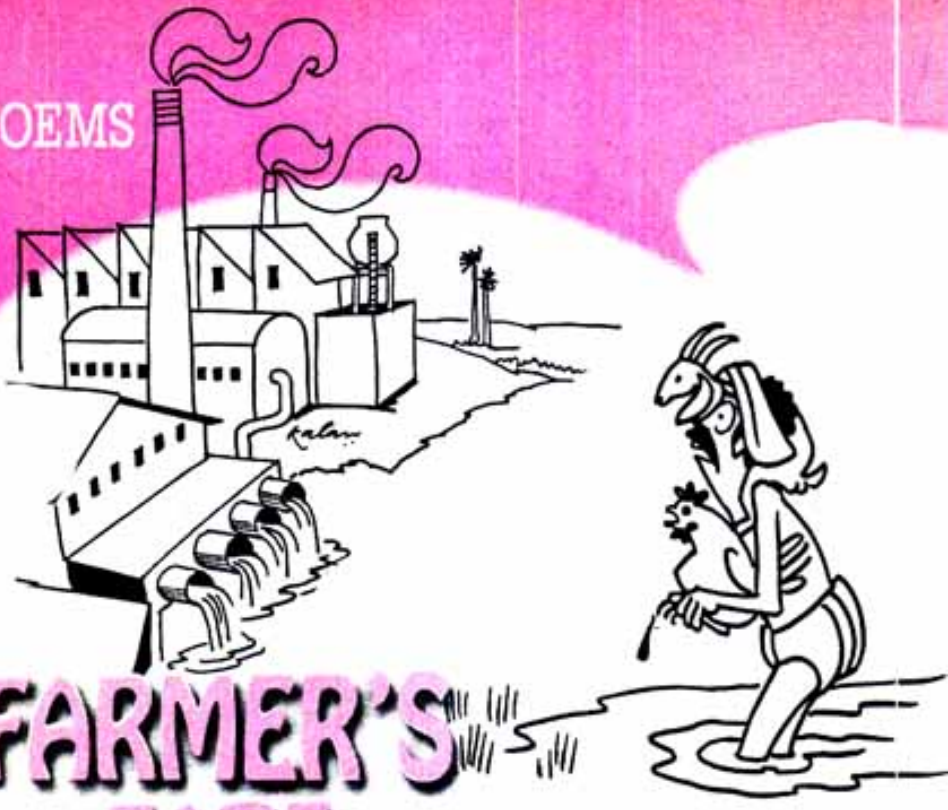
This story is about the joy of simple surprises. The bright colour illustrations give us an insight into rural Tamilnadu. Reading in two languages helps us understand a bit more about using English and Tamil.

Both *Malli* and *The Runaway Peppercorn* can be read by small children (4-8 years) as there's very little textual matter.

Malli, is written by Jeeva Raghunath and art is by Nancy Raj. Published by Tulika, 13, Prithvi Avenue, Abhiramapuram, Chennai - 600 018. Email : tulikabooks@vsnl.com. Price Rs. 60.

SEE MORE!

She fell headlong into the mud, flat on her face, flailing her arms and legs in all four directions. Three hungry little boys, who usually hung around waiting for funny-shaped vadas from stingy Parvati Chechi, burst out laughing. (From "Runaway Peppercorn")



FARMER'S FATE

Oh! This man he did raise
The best of wheat, barley and maize.
He had a huge space
For his hefty cattle to graze.
Also on his farm had he
Poultry birds - hen, cock and geese
With all this, to work hard
He didn't cease.

Then in the places nearby,
There came up industry,
And it set its wastes free,
Into the air and water nearby.
The animals and plants around,
Began to fall sick and die.
The poor farmer sadly sat,
Bewildered and wondering why!

As for money, he didn't gain,
A penny for his cattle or his grain.
The farmer, sick was he growing,
Worried about his earning.
Filled with grievances he lay,
Not knowing whether to cry or pray.
With his barren sand and clay,
Pollution did havoc play.

And the beautiful farm did fade
Into a dirty swampy glade.
What the farmer had expected was
"It would be a rice bed".
In reality it was poisonous lead.
It was so filled with dirt and filth,
The industry didn't care a bit,
To keep its surrounding fit!

- S.Sabaritha,
Std.VIII, SKCH,
Bangalore

RAINDROPS!

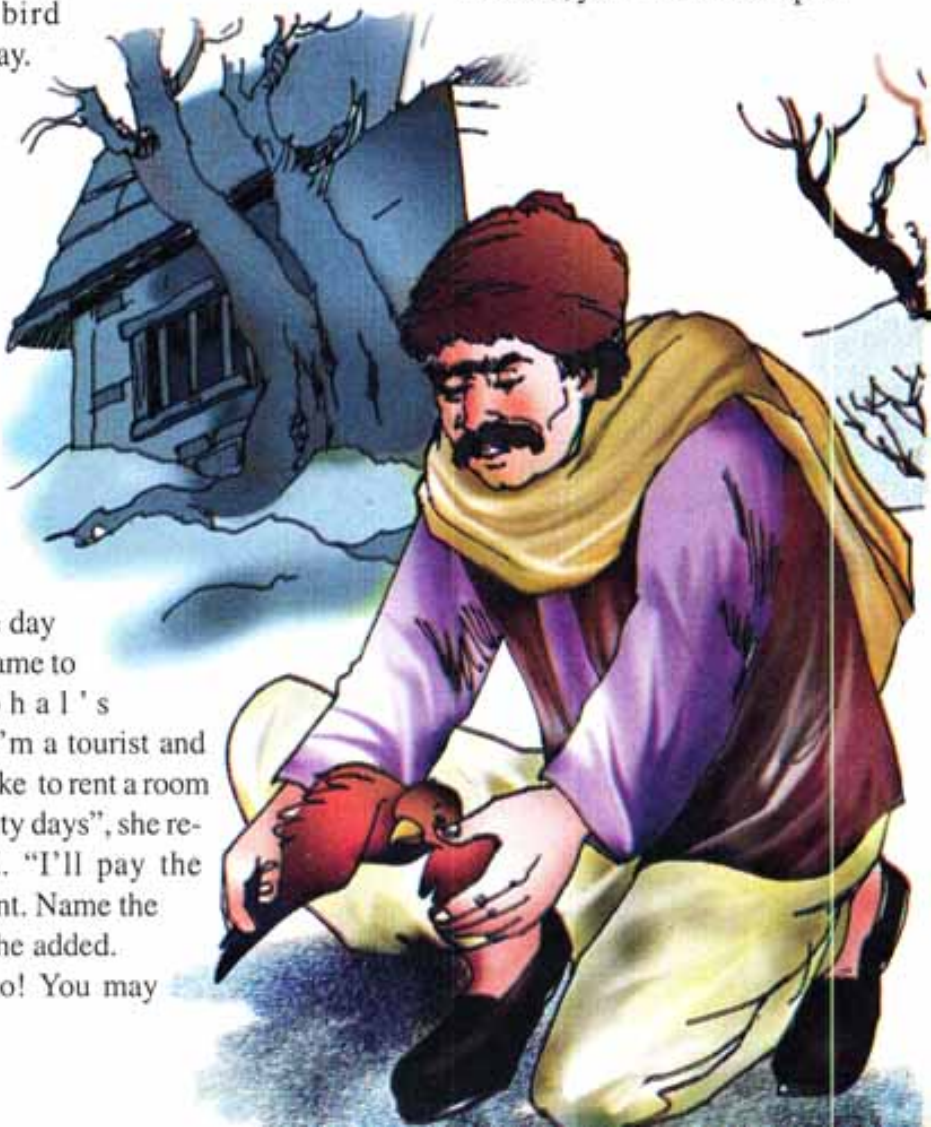
The earth helpless, scorching,
Turned up to the sky
When winds suddenly howled,
Rumbled sighed and
Brought along a cloud.
The earth loved the sky's embrace
When the raindrops touched
its face.

To quench its thirst
Came the raindrops first!
The earth, the trees,
The birds and the beasts
Welcomed the drops of rain.
On the moist earth there was
joy again.
The earth - all wet with rain,
On its surface like tiny blades,
The grass had grown without pain.
Under the street lights
In the dark lane,
The drops of rain,
Were glistening in the night,
Oh! What a marvelous sight!

- Supriya Padmanabhan,
Std.X, Navrachana HSS,
Vadodara, Gujarat

STORY

It was a snowy day in the Himalayan mountains. Ramphal the woodcutter, was on his way back home after a hard day's work. A beautiful bird was stuck in the hard snow. Ramphal took pity on the bird and carried it back home. The bird was extremely weak and had hurt itself. He fed it and nursed it back to health. The bird flew away.



One day a lady came to Ramphal's house. I'm a tourist and would like to rent a room for twenty days", she requested. "I'll pay the room rent. Name the price" she added.

"O no! You may use my spare room free of cost. I am not in the hotel business", said the kind hearted Ramphal.

"Thank you. But I can't occupy the room without paying for it. I know how to turn stone into gold. If you give me two stones each day, I'll turn them into gold. But remember, you must never open

THE BROKEN PROMISE

the door or peep into my room."

Ramphal was delighted. He gave two stones to the lady every evening and received two gold stones in the morning the next day. Ten days passed by. He now had twenty golden stones.

Ramphal could not keep himself from finding out the lady's secret. 'If I could convert stones into gold myself, I'll be even richer' he thought. That night, he quietly pushed the door of the lady's room slightly and peered in. He was astonished to find the bird, which he had helped, rubbing the stone with its feathers!

Just then, the bird turned and looked at him. "Ramphal! I'm the bird of heaven. I came to you in the guise of a lady to make you rich to repay you for your kindness. But you have broken your promise. So I shan't stay here any more" It flew away.

Ramphal felt ashamed of his curiosity and greed. He had learnt his lesson.

- B. Vinay Kumar,
Std.IX,
Nagarjuna High School,
Hyderabad

MEDICAL MARVEL!

Thanks to the advancement of medical science and technology, cancer is no longer the incurable disease it used to be. It is possible to alleviate many crippling diseases, too, like osteoarthritis and tendonitis.

Scientists at the institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) and the Centre of Advanced Research and Development (CARD) at Bangalore have developed a device for treating these diseases after extensive research in cell regeneration and degeneration.

The device named Cytotron generates high intensity Quantum Magnetic Resonance (QMR) beams from 288 specially designed guns. These beams are precisely focussed on the target tissue. The beams activate the cells and alter their dynamics to either activate, reproduce and proliferate them in osteoarthritis patients or kill the cancerous cells in cancer patients, as the case may be. This process eliminates the need for surgery. Since the beams are focussed on a specific area the adjacent normal healthy cells are left untouched.

Prof. V.G. Vasishtha, Head of the Department of Radio Diagnosis at the IAM proudly stated that a 35 year old cancer patient's condition had improved considerably after three sessions of this treatment. He could not get out of bed before treatment, but now he can drive a car and walk a lot.

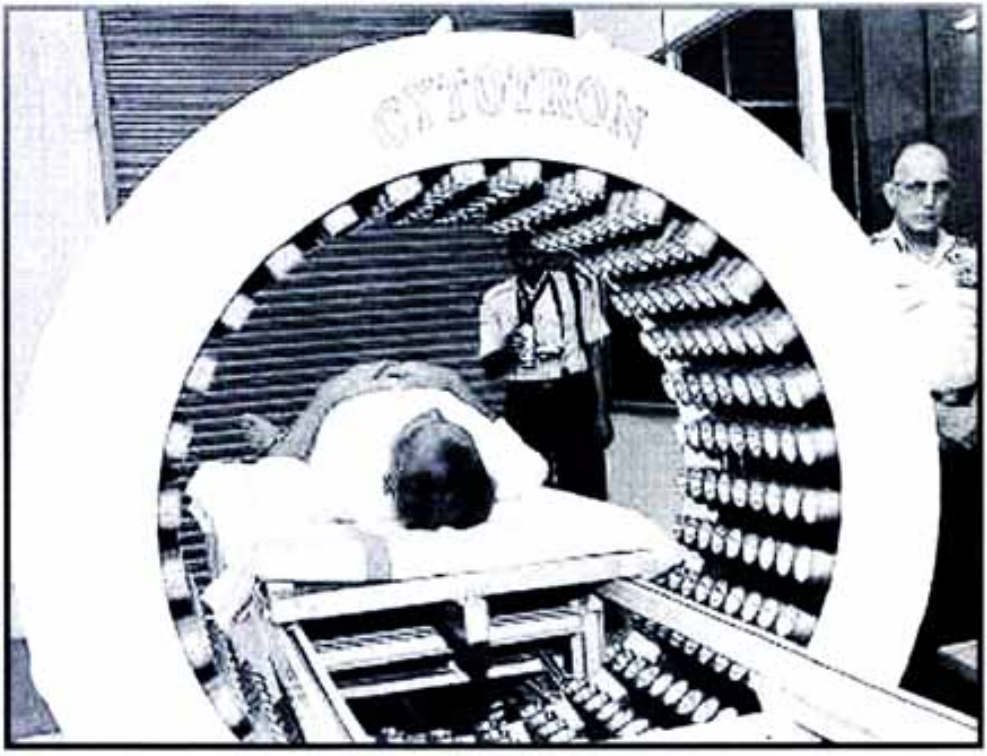
Most osteoarthritis patients become free from pain

in just 4 - 5 hours after exposure to these beams and can walk upto five kilometres after undergoing treatment. When the cartilage in the knee joint gets depleted due to a disease, osteoarthritis is caused. These tissues are regenerated using Rotational Field Quantum Magnetic Resonance (RFQMR).

So far more than 220 patients suffering from arthritis have successfully undergone this treatment.

Cancer patients are exposed to one hour a day treatment for 28 days. Out of 75 terminally ill patients treated, 38 are still alive, well beyond the period of doctors' expectation! Even their quality of life has improved considerably with 33% of them having resumed their normal activity.

The same technique can be perfected to treat a hearing disability called tinnitus; macular degeneration, which could lead to blindness; angliogenesis and diabetes. This technology can also be used to treat brain tumours. Thus, tissue engineering techniques like RFQMR are performing miracles in the field of bio-medical sciences.



- P.R.

ART Gallery

S.RAJESH Std.VII,
NSN M.H.S.S., Chennai

G.ANIRUDH RAGHAV
Std.VIII, Venkat International
Public School, Bangalore.

C.P.AISHWARYA Std.VIII,
Vedavalli Vidyalaya SSS,
Walajapet

TWISHA REEMUN
Age 10, Kolkatta

N.MEHERU Std.X, Bethany School,
Visakhapatnam

L.N.MEENA, Std.II, TVS
Lakshmi School, Madurai

KIRTHANA
J. REDDY
Std.VI, Kendriya
Vidyalaya, Rajkot.

Name : **P.Nellai Kumar**
Age : 9
Address : 50/40B, Thaneer Pandal 2, Opp. to old E.B. Office, Peelamedu, Coimbatore.
Hobbies : Playing video games and computer games and reading Gokulam.

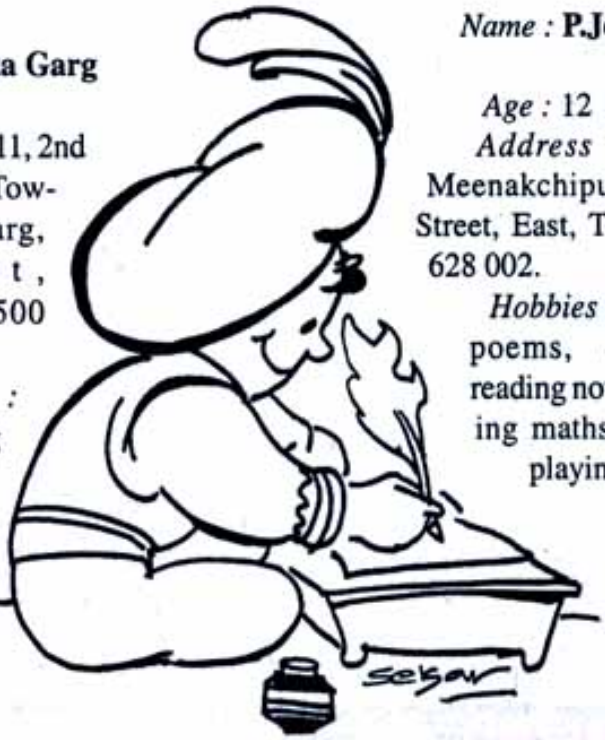
Name : **Shravan P. Kamat**
Age : 12
Address : C-11, Padmanarayan Estate, Near Muth, Gogal, Margao, Goa.
Hobbies : Playing chess and computer games, reading books, stamp collection, watching comedy and adventure movies.

Name : **Yogika Garg**
Age : 13
Address : SC-11, 2nd Floor, Kundan Towers, Mayur Marg, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500 016.
Hobbies : Reading, playing games, singing, dancing, making friends and doing creative work.

Name : **K.Arjun**
Age : 16
Address : MPB-72, Krishna Kutir, Mahavir Nagar (I), Kota - 324 005. Rajasthan.
Hobbies : Philately, reading, singing, writing and making pen friends.

Name : **Satya Nair**
Age : 15
Address : B/5, 601, Janaki, Safal Complex, Sector - 19A, Nerul, Navi Mumbai - 400 706.
Hobbies : Reading books, watching TV, playing badminton and cycling.

NEW YEAR FRIENDS!



Name : **P.Joseph Pravin**
Age : 12
Address : 75/A, Meenakchipuram, 5th Street, East, Tuticorin - 628 002.
Hobbies : Writing poems, drawing, reading novels, solving maths puzzles, playing piano.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

* You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.

Remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your - **Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not, the source must be mentioned).**

However, we cannot guarantee that your contribution will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contribution to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

- Editor

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2006, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize.

Name : **J.Aishwarya**
Age : 15
Address : 25/10, II Main Road, Krishna Nagar, Chrompet, Chennai - 600 044.
Hobbies : Glass & pot painting, reading Gokulam, making handicrafts, making friends, dancing and watching quiz programmes.

Name : **Arkotrisha Payne**
Age : 16
Address : 98/1, S.M. Road, Barrackpore, Kolkata - 700 122.
Hobbies : Reading story books, writing poems and stories, surfing the net, listening to music and watching TV.

Name : **E.M.Gopika**
Age : 12
Address : 12, Himavan Apts.-1, Coconut Garden II Main Road, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore - 560 072.
Hobbies : Dancing, drawing, cycling, exercising and skating.

Name : **M.Sandeep**
Age : 17 years
Address : 82, Sivaji Colony Extn., Next to Sai Lakshmi Apts, Edayarpalayam, Coimbatore - 641 025.
Hobbies : Reading books, surfing the net, listening to music, hanging out with friends.

Gift yourself (or your friends) a wallet for the New Year. (Make it yourself!)

Materials :

1. Cardboard from an old hard bound note book.
2. Pauplin cloth. (dark colour)
3. Ribbon (lighter shade).
4. Fevicol
5. Needle & thread
6. Fabric picture or chamki

Steps

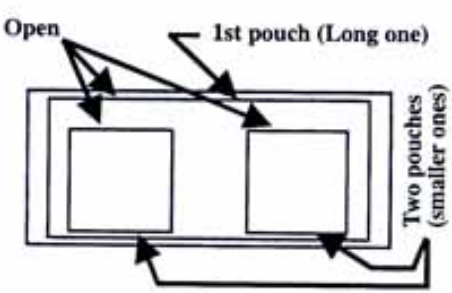
1. Cut the cardboard into the size you want your wallet to be. Fold it into half.

2. Cut the pauplin cloth an inch bigger on all sides than the cardboard.

3. Stick pauplin cloth onto the cardboard using fevicol.

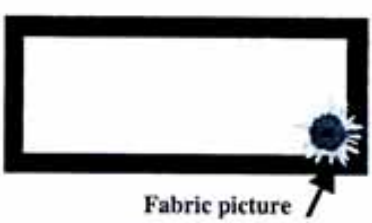
4. When it is drying, you can make pouches for the inside of the wallet. (A long one and two smaller ones).

5. Stick pouches on three sides leaving the top side open.



6. Stick the ribbon on the outer side borders and on the pouches where they open.

7. Now stick the fabric picture or chamki on the outer side corner.



8. Your wallet is ready!

Personalize it by adding your name on it, or write your name (or design) on a funky fabric cloth with fabric colours and stick it.

- Yeshaswini Halthore, Std.XI, VJPUC, Bangalore

SUPERSTITIOUS SEEMA!

Seema was a very superstitious girl. Her classmates used to tease her about it. She felt sad but she could not help being superstitious.

One day, her class went for an excursion to the zoo, but Seema refused to come. Her friend Reema asked her why.

"Oh! Reema! I do not know about the others but I am certainly not going because today is 8th and 8 is an unlucky number for me." After a lot of persuation she did agree but only for sitting in the bus.

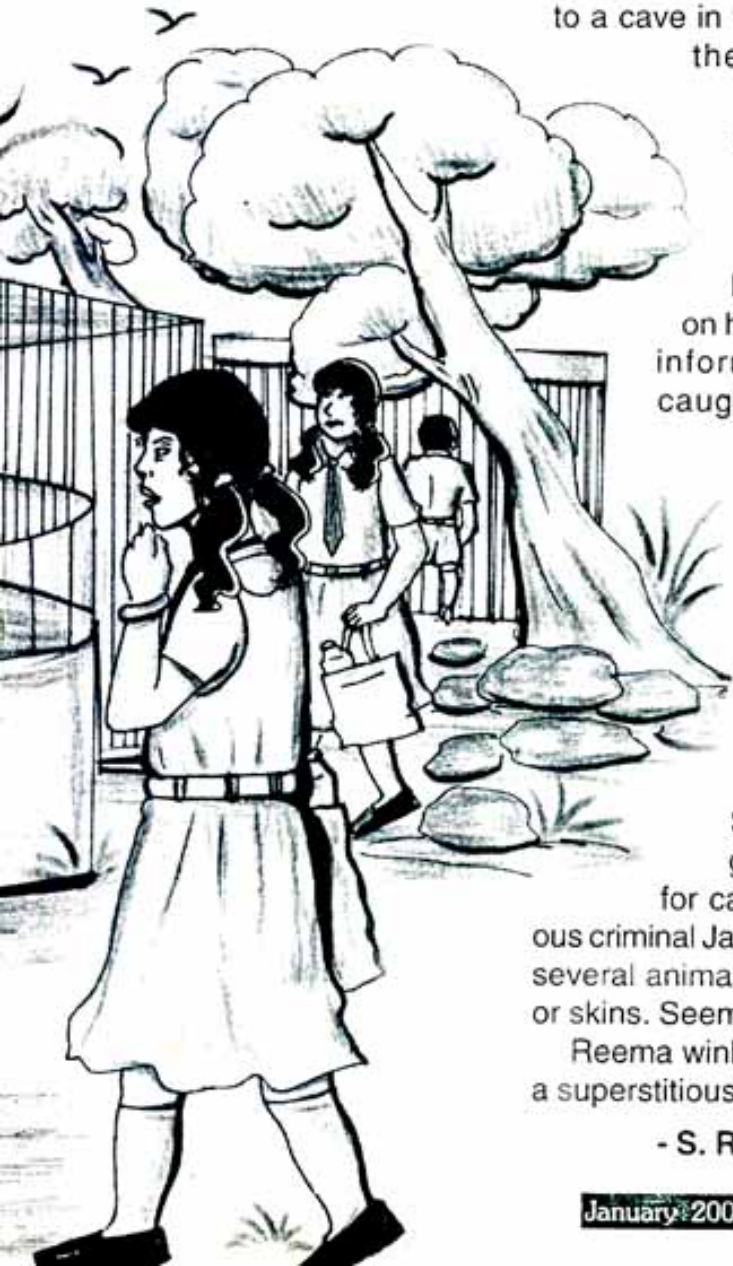
The zoo was indeed a sight for young children to see. There were majestic lions, ferocious tigers, cunning foxes, naughty monkeys and laughing hyenas. The children rushed towards the animals' cages.

In the meantime, Reema pulled Seema out of the bus. Suddenly, Seema felt an internal joy within

her on seeing the zoo and she walked on the lush green grass.

She was attracted towards a rhino. It was an American rhino and its horn was very precious .... but the horn was gone. She was SHOCKED!

When she looked around, She saw her classmates moving away but at the same time, she saw a fresh track of footprints. Seema was in a dilemma. She decided to follow the footprints which led to a cave in which the food for the animals were kept. Seema silently but firmly closed the gate and locked it.



The zoo keeper was going on his rounds. Seema informed him. He caught the thief who was hiding in the cave and praised Seema.

The next day, in the assembly, the principal announced that Seema would be getting an award for catching the notorious criminal Jaggu who had killed several animals for horns, tusks or skins. Seema was overjoyed.

Reema winked at her. "Fancy a superstitious girl who is lucky!"

- S. Rajaram, Chennai

I. FIGURE OUT!

1. Who shaves more than once daily?

2. I am born with light and die with it. Who am I?

3. Who can speak any language, but has never attended school?

4. I am full of holes. Still I hold water. Who am I?

5. What grows bigger when you take more from it?

6. Read this : ICUR2Y4me.

7. Spell 'deterioration' with two letters.

8. It flies without legs or wings but has a tail.

9. I am called 'The queen of night'. I weep when I work. Who am I?

10. I climb over the nose and sit on the ears even then people feel comfortable! Who am I?

11. Where does Friday come before Thursday?

12. He is a dumb watchman who hangs on the door, he takes no food and salary. Who is he?

- Priya R. Prakash,
Std.X, Indra Nagar Cambridge School,
Bangalore

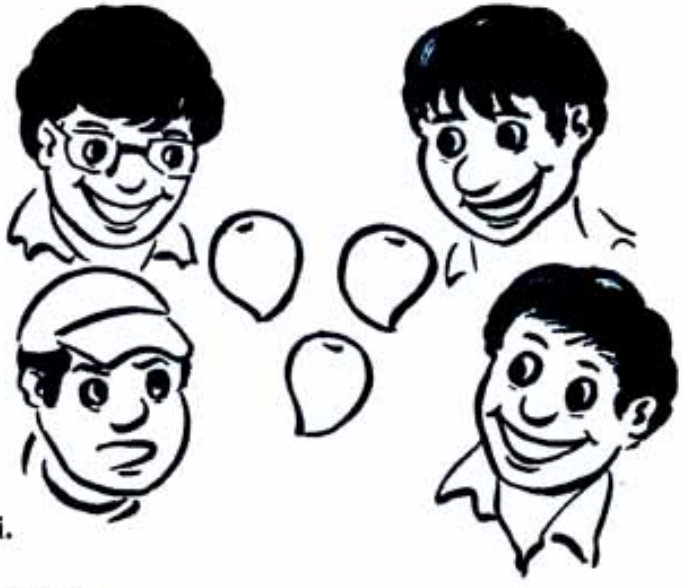
II. MANGOES!

Kannan, Harish, Ashwath and Karthik are friends. Kannan is a greedy boy. Harish is greedier than Kannan. Ashwath is a kind hearted boy. Karthik is worse than Kannan but not as bad as Harish. He grabs any-

GUESS! GUESS!

thing that is available to eat. One day they have to share 3 mangoes amongst themselves (four of them). Who will share his mango with whom?

- P.Sushma,
Std.VIII,
Arul Malar Mat.
Hr. Sec. School,
Madurai.



III. DISCOVERING AGE!

Each of the answers ends with 'age'. Find them.

(eg. Age that is visible - Image)

1. Age that is heavy.
2. Age that is adventurous.
3. Age that brings a spouse.
4. Age that lacks something.
5. Age that stinks.
6. Age that imprisons.
7. Age that means a saint.
8. Age that is levied for mail.

- Vivek Vijayan,
St. John's High School,
Bangalore

IV. RIDDLES

1. What smells the most in a chemist's shop?
2. What goes through the window without breaking it?
3. How can we mention hard water in three letters?
4. Why should you never believe a person in bed?

- Supriya Padmanabhan,
Std.X,
Naurachana GSS,
Vadodara

Answers :

I. 1.Barber 2.Shadow 3.Echo 4.Sponge 5.A hole 6.I see you are too wise for me 7.DK (decay) 8.Kite 9.A burning candle 10.Spectacles 11.In a dictionary 12.Lock

II. Ashwath shares a mango with Kannan.

III : 1.Luggage 2.Voyage 3.Marriage 4.Shortage 5.Garbage 6.Cage 7.Sage 8.Postage

IV. 1.The Chemist's Nose 2.Light 3.Ice 4.Because he is lying

DON'T MIND!

Patient : (at mental hospital) : We like you more than any other doctor.

Doctor : (flattered) : Thankyou!

Patient : You seem to be like one of us!

- R.Jeffry Copps, Chennai.

Teacher : I bought some 'gifts' for my friend's birthday. What 'tense' is this?

Laxman : Er... 'Present' tense?!

- Yamuna Renganathan, Bangalore

Teacher : What are residents of Turkey called?

Ram : Turks.

Teacher : Very good. Shyam, how about residents of Germany?

Shyam : Germs!

- Sivagami Sundar, Madurai

Hari : I've changed my mind

Gopal : Good. Does it work better than the old one?

- Ananya Mishra, Bhubaneswar

ARJUN KANNAN

JEST FOR PUN!

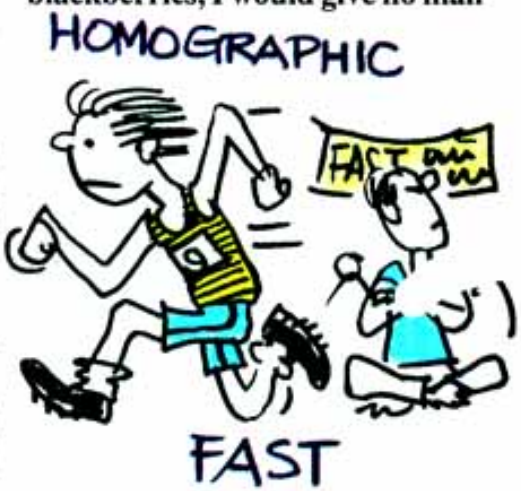
Hi friends!

Do you know what a pun is? A pun is a deliberate confusion of similar-sounding words or phrases for humorous or serious effect. There are many types of puns:-

1. Homographic puns are puns which exploit the difference in meanings of words which look alike.

2. Homophonic puns are puns which exploit the difference in meanings of words which sound alike but have different spellings.

First let us discuss some puns by the greatest 'punster' of them all- Shakespeare. In fact, Shakespeare is often referred to as a 'punny' (funny) guy. He often employed the use of puns in his works, much to the delight of his audiences. Since audiences in Shakespeare's time were seated according to class, Shakespeare made sure that there was something humorous in his plays for everyone.



Again during his era, some words were pronounced differently.

"If *reasons* were as plentiful as blackberries, I would give no man a reason upon compulsion".

'Reasons', is a pun on raisins, since the word 'reasons' used to be pronounced as raisins. Blackberries are common fruits while raisins are not. But the

character in Shakespeare's play says that even if raisins were to become as plentiful as blackberries he would not give a reason. It also says that if raisins were aplenty it can be given away without any compulsion.

"Now is it Rome indeed, and room enough,
When there is in it but one only man."

This is a line from Julius Caesar. Again the pronunciation of the two words Rome and room, was much the same. Here 'Rome' is used instead of room to indicate that there is the whole of Rome (where Caesar ruled) as space if necessary. It also means that Caesar is the only man, being Caesar the great.

Puns are not restricted to the serious ones like those in Shakespeare's plays. In fact, in the modern world, puns are used more for humour.

A television show once depicted a man who had been impaled by an anchor. When interviewed, the surgeon who performed the operation said, "He sailed through it" (meaning that the operation was easy), which is a pun since the injury was caused by an anchor.

Here are some funny puns :-

He drove his expensive car into a tree and found out how the Mercedes bends (benz).

This is a pun on the famous luxury car.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds. When someone is hungry he has a second helping. A clock shows time and hence the reference to seconds. Also note that four is pronounced as for.

Every calendar's days are numbered. A calendar shows the dates of the month. Its days are thus numbered literally and figuratively (at the end of the year the calendar is worthless).

Teacher : Why were you talking when I was taking class?

Student : You must be mistaken, miss! I don't talk in my sleep!

- P. Soundharya,
Std IX,
Chennai

He had a photographic memory that was never developed. An easy to understand pun.

He wears glasses during math because it improves division **(the vision).**

To write with a broken pencil is pointless. **Again a straight pun.**

When the electricity went off during a storm at a school the students were delighted. Delighted can also be read as de-lighted.

A pessimist's blood type is always B-Negative (be negative).

If you enjoyed the above puns the following pun is absolutely cracking.

"I wondered why the ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me." This has a dual meaning. If a thought strikes someone, he says "it hit me". Now the pun leaves you wondering whether it was the ball or the answer to his doubt which hit him!

A boy was bagging groceries at a supermarket. One day the store installed a machine for squeezing fresh orange juice. The boy asked if he could be allowed to work the machine, but his request was denied. Can you guess what the owner said?

"Sorry, kid, but baggers can't be juicers." This sounds similar to 'beggars can't be choosers'.

Once upon a time a man was overheard saying, **"I'm a walking *economy*. My hairline's in *recession*, my waist is a victim of *inflation*, and together they're putting me in a deep *depression*."** What it means is that he was going bald and becoming fat and so he was depressed. Recession, inflation and depression are words related to the economy and therefore he is a walking economy! A clever pun, indeed!

So remember, (jest for pun) a 'pun is mightier than a sword'!

TOMO IN KASHMIR
REAL PEACEFUL!
THIS IS LIFE...!
EXCEPT FOR THE TERRORISTS SAHB! HA, HA!
STORY: SWEETLILY
P.R
PICTURES: JEYARAJ
AT SHALIMAR GARDENS~
IF THERE IS A HEAVEN ON EARTH, IT IS THIS!...
THAT IS THE INSCRIPTION DESCRIBING THIS GARDEN!
LATER ~
A TREKKING WE WILL GO..!
SHERPA, SAHIB?... GUIDE?
WE DON'T NEED ANY!
NO MONEY!
BUT YOU MAY NEED THIS. ...FIRE WORKS...TAKE THIS WITH YOU. DON'T PAY ANYTHING.
LATER... IN THE WILDERNESS...
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE! IT IS A HIMALAYAN BLACK BEAR!
TALK TO HIM. AFTER ALL HE IS YOUR COUSIN!
WON'T WORK.. RUN...

Kashmir's three gardens Chesmashahi, Nishat and Shalimar were created by Mughal Emperor Jehangir for his wife Noorjahan. Terraced lawns, cascading fountains, pretty and colourful flowerbeds, all with a panoramic view of the Dal lake and the mountains, were his concept of paradise. Kashmir is indeed a tourist's delight. Adventure tourists undertake mountain treks and have a delightful time at Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonemarg.

The Himalayas abound in a varity of flora and fauna. The Himalayan Black Bear is a protected animal. These bears are huge with shiny black coats and inhabit rock caves in the foothills of the Himalayas. Sloth bears come from the oldest lineage of true bears.

The recognised mountain distress signal is six blasts on a whistle, or six flashes of a light, in succession, followed by a one minute pause and repeated until you get a response (three blasts or flashes is the appropriate response).

Ever since Natwar Singh and the Congress were named in the Volcker report, the opposition has been demanding the resignation of Natwar Singh and Sonia Gandhi. The Prime Minister first demoted Natwar Singh as a Minister without portfolio. But the Opposition was not satisfied and continued to disrupt parliamentary proceedings. To add fuel to the fire, the Indian Ambassador to Croatia, Aniel Matherani made a very damaging statement about the conduct of Natwar Singh and the Prime Minister had no option but to ask for the resignation of Natwar Singh. The opposition has now stepped up their attack on Sonia, but she is not likely to oblige them.

• Adds fuel

• Expelled...

• Winner...

TAMILNADU UNDER WATER!

The North East monsoon wreaked havoc this year. Torrential rains caused breaches in tanks and river bunds, flooding most of Tamilnadu. The State Government has asked for a 'tanker load' of central aid, whereas the Central Government is coming forward with trickles. Meanwhile the suffering of the people seems endless. Besides immediate relief, long term solutions have to be found for flood control and water management.

Uma Bharathi, former BJP Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh wanted to become the C.M. once again and had the support of considerable number of M.L.As. But the high command nominated someone else and declared him elected. Uma hit back with very strong words and the high command expelled her from the party. Uma Bharathi who till recently was saying that she was the BJP, is now hoping for reconciliation.

The Bihar State elections gave a big jolt to Lalu Prasad Yadav and his party. The rule, by proxy, of Rabri Devi came to an end and Nitish Kumar took up the reins with the support of BJP. Paswan and his 'dog in the manger' policy were rejected by the electorate.

In Sri Lanka it was Mahinda Rajapakse who became the President with the support of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna. The latter party is totally opposed to the Tamil Tigers and it remains to be seen if the peace talks will proceed further.

NEW YEAR ROUND THE GLOBE

Want to go globe trotting to find out how different nationals celebrate New Year's day? Fasten your seat belts!

The Japanese, rich or poor, wear new clothes on New Year's day. Children bow and greet everyone they meet. In the evening they light colourful paper lamps at home. At the stroke of midnight a bell is rung 108 times to signify that everyone can now strike off his / her 108 problems and joyfully welcome the new year!

Britishers wear black coats and greet friends with bread and charcoal in their hands on new year's day. They believe that by doing so they will have plenty of food all the year long!

In Laos, people buy birds and fish (in water bags) on New year's eve. These are released on New Year's day. Thus they begin the new year with a good deed!

At the stroke of midnight, the Spanish eat grapes. They start eating at the first stroke. If one is able to consume 12 grapes by the twelfth stroke, the person will have a very happy new year!

On New Year's day in N.Africa, a fire is lit. After paying obeisance to the fire each one jumps across the fire. It is believed that one's sins and mistakes have been consigned to the flames and one can now begin a fresh new year!

- V.SRINIVASAN

Lord Yama, the god of death, decided to get married and lead a happy life, like the other gods. He went to the earth in the form of a handsome lad. He married a charming young girl.

But Yama's joy was short-lived. His wife, Durga, began to devote her time and attention to their baby. Durga became very peevish and quarrelsome. As a result, Yama gradually lost interest in her. Durga wanted him to earn a lot of wealth. So, he started to practise as a doctor.

Yet her nagging increased to such an extent that she became a terror to her husband. The minute he heard her voice, he would run away and hide somewhere.

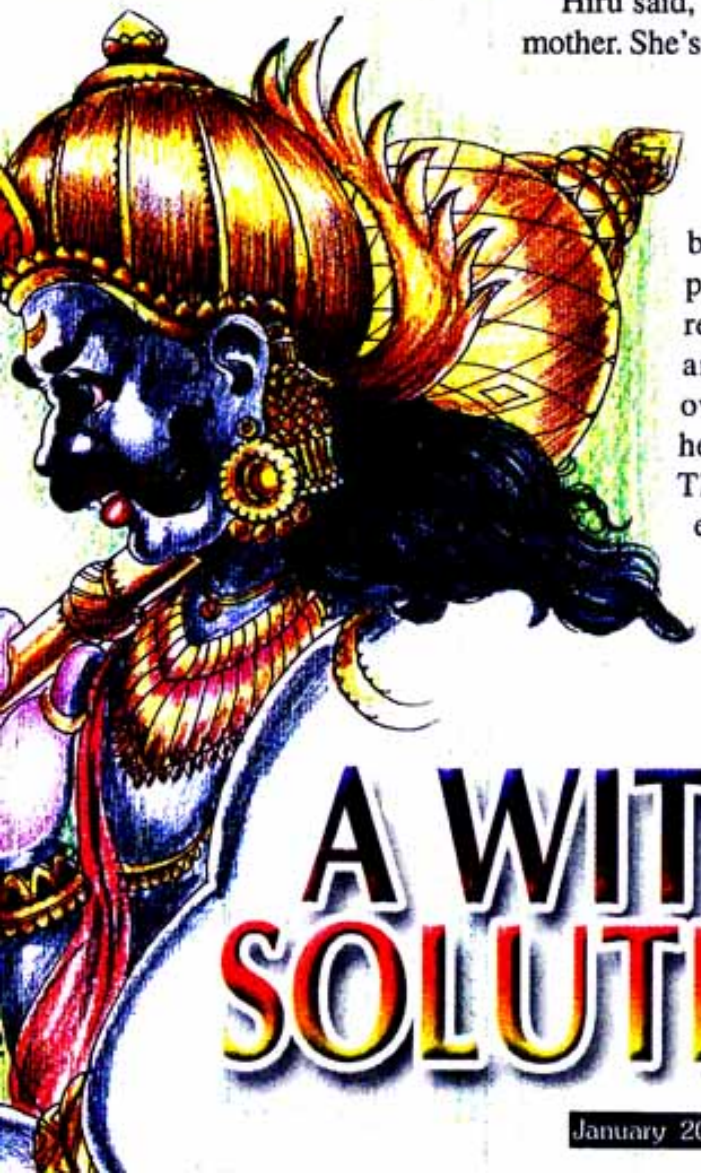
One fine morning, he just disappeared. But Durga did not worry. She loved her son Hiru. One day, Durga fell seriously ill. She advised her son to use the medicines left behind by his father and make a living. He followed his mother's advice.

A WITTY SOLUTION

One night, Lord Yama appeared in Hiru's dream and asked him to look towards the head of the patient. "If you see me sitting there, refuse to treat the patient. My presence there means that the patient will die." So saying Lord Yama disappeared. Hiru followed this advice and soon became a famous doctor.

Once the king requested Hiru to treat his daughter who was seriously ill. Hiru went and saw his father at the head of the princess. But he did not give up. He thought hard and had a brain wave.

Hiru said, "You must meet my mother. She's eager to talk to you."



Lord Yama's face turned pale and he fled from there. Hiru then began to treat the princess and she soon recovered. The king and queen were overjoyed. They got her married to Hiru. They lived happily ever after.

- G.P. Mahitha, Std.VI, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai

MARKS AND

A meaningful unit of letters is called a word and a meaningful unit of words is a sentence. These are used in effective communication. A single letter can change the entire meaning of the word. For eg. 1. I want 2. I went 3. I wint. If 1 is the correct word in the sentence, 2 would change the meaning and 3 would make it absurd! How can you have proper written communication without proper spellings? So I feel that the CBSE decision not to deduct marks for wrong spellings is not right.

- Revathi Majhi,
Std.XII, BJB Junior College,
Bhubaneswar

Education is not only about learning languages. In science and technology, spellings may take a back seat. Nowadays we have accepted both American and British spellings. By allowing a margin of error in spellings, students can focus better on their core subjects. Hence I am happy with the CBSE decision.

- K.Keerthana, Std.VIII, S.V.
Union High School, Pune

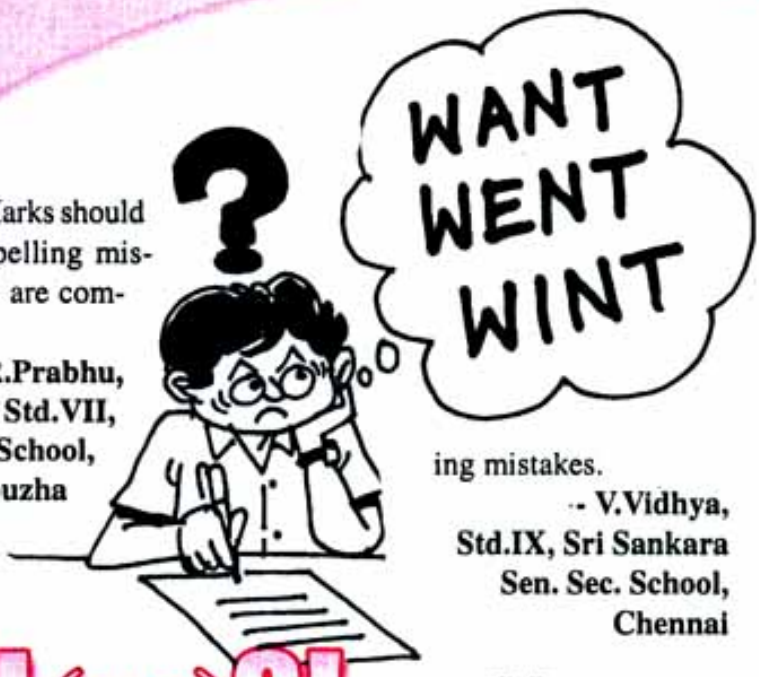
"I could not attent the enterwoo yestoday becos in tren I slipped on top birth. I feel down and brake my alms" Does this make sense to you? Do you think this person will be given another chance to attend the interview, let alone get the job?

- R. Lakshmi, Std.VIII,
Nirmala Matha Convent MHSS,
Coimbatore.

Unlike other languages, English words are pronounced and spelt differently. English spellings need reform. Redundant or silent alphabets should be discarded. Why should there be a 'p'

in psychology? Marks should not be cut for spelling mistakes unless they are common words.

- Ajan R.Prabhu,
Std.VII,
SDVEMHS School,
Alapuzha



SPELL(ING)S!

Spellings play an important role not only in languages but in science and social sciences too. Wrong spellings may change the entire meaning. If marks are deducted for spelling mistakes, students will try to improve. If not, they will not make an attempt to learn the spellings. So I feel marks should be cut for spelling mistakes.

- V.Vidhya,
Std.IX, Sri Sankara
Sen. Sec. School,
Chennai

Many students make spelling mistakes when they are under stress due to exams. Their answers may be right but they lose marks for spelling mistakes. While studying, a lot of time is lost for learning spellings. However this relaxation should not be taken by students as a licence to misspell words.

- Priya, Std.VIII,
MES Kishara Kendra,
Bangalore

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

The names of several capital cities of India are being officially changed. Bombay became Mumbai, Madras is known as Chennai and now Bangalore will be 'Bengaluru'. Write and tell us what you think about such changes.

Send us your views by 10.1.2006. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs.25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too.

Ajmer, south west of Jaipur is an oasis and a historic city. Today it is a pilgrimage centre for the Hindus, Jains and Muslims. The famous dargah of Sufi saint Chisti is located here.

About 11 kms. from Ajmer lies the holy city of Pushkar, known as Brahma's city. The

Brahma temple at Pushkar is considered to be the only real Brahma temple in the whole world.

Pushkar means a pond created by a flower. It is believed that Pushkar was formed when Brahma dropped a lotus (flower) on the earth to determine a place for his yagna. Since Brahma's consort Savitri kept him waiting, he married Gayatri to perform the yagna at the auspicious time. In anger, Savitri cursed him that he would be forgotten by everyone on earth. Later she relented and allowed him to be worshipped at Pushkar alone.

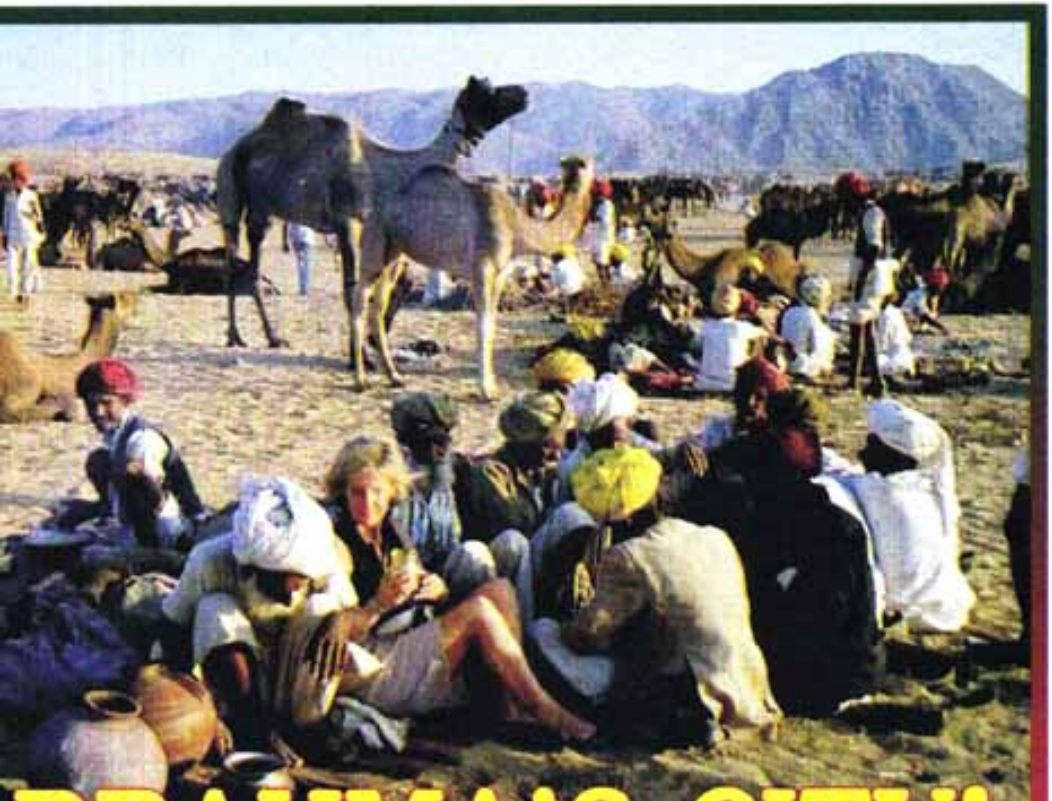
There are temples for Brahma, Savitri, Saraswati and Rangji (Vishnu) at Pushkar. The Nasiyan temple is a beautiful red temple. The hall has large gold plated wooden figures from Jain mythology and is richly adorned with gold, silver and precious stones.

Pushkar on the edge of the desert is separated from Ajmer by the Nag Parbat

(Snake hill). Pushkar lake, considered to be as old as Creation, lends the town a mystic charm. A dip in the lake on Kartika Poornima day is said to be equivalent to performing yagnas for several hundred years. The lake, amidst the hills, has fifty two bathing ghats, each ghat having special powers.

The Pushkar Fair held during October - November every year attracts thousands of people including foreign tourists. Commonly known as camel fair, villagers trade horses, camels, elephants, livestock and cattle in the fair. Shops selling colourful knickknacks and eateries, games, races and circus shows are aplenty. It casts a magic spell on tourists.

Truly, Brahma, the creator, has created a charming city for pilgrims and tourists alike.



BRAHMA'S CITY!

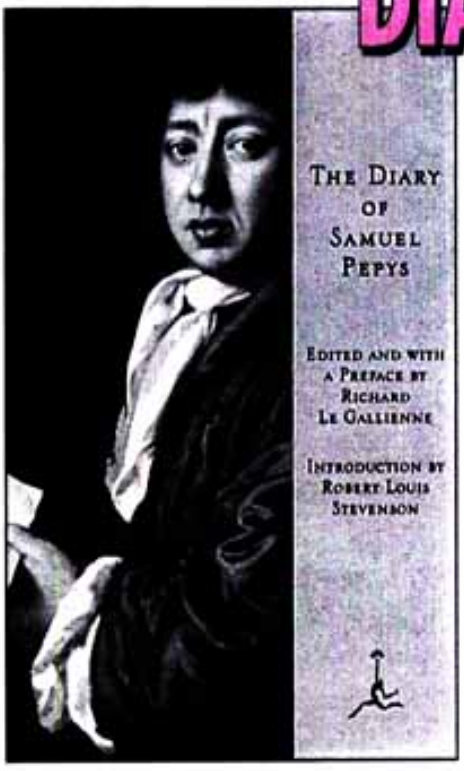
- D.Santosh Kumar,
Std.VII, M.P.S., Ajmer.

DIARY WRITING

Last year, Sneha's dad presented her a diary on New Year's day. "What a silly gift for a thirteen year old!" commented her friends when she displayed it to them. This year the very same friends have put in a request to their parents for a diary!

Most people think a diary is the most boring book where you jot down appointments and other information you are likely to forget. Diaries are meant to remind you about exams, homeworks and assignments. But there is more to it. Diaries can be fun and can act as your best friend too!

No kidding. You can record most personal feelings and reflections on any topic in a diary. There are days when even your best friend doesn't want to listen, when you use the words 'I' and 'me'. A diary is exclusively yours. No rules, you can use simple language, casual style and fill it up with 'I's and 'me's!



'What's the big deal?' you might still ask. Well, you'll find that it facilitates the growth of self awareness and self reliance. At a later date, you can reflect on your experiences and contemplate future directions. In fact it even helps to find solutions to complex problems. Sometimes when you are not able to articulate your innermost thoughts even to yourself, it is easy to jot them down in a diary concisely. You suddenly find clarity in your previously muddled thoughts.

Anne Frank's world famous diary charts two years of life from 1942 to 1944 when her family was hiding

PRIYA RAVI

In the NEW YEAR

his works being a record of historical events and a gold mine of information, they are considered to be a mainstay of literature.

Several commentaries and biographies about great Indians like Pandit Nehru have been based on their diaries. Autobiographies are based on diaries too.

So, get going. Like Sneha's friends, get yourself a diary on January 1st 2006 and start writing. Until then have some fun practising diary writing. Imagine you are Mary's Little Lamb. What would you write? ("The stupid girl expects me to follow her everywhere, even to school. Those rowdy children scared the hell out of me. Wonder why they thought I was funny and they should laugh at me...") Or what if you were Miss Muffet's Spider?

Happy diary writing in the New Year!

Cover Illustration : **Lalithaa**

* Anne Frank

in Amsterdam from German Nazis. She had received a diary (in 1942) for her thirteenth birthday. "I hope that you will be a great support and comfort to me." she wrote in the first page.

Britisher Samuel Pepys is known for his exhaustive diaries written in code. From private records to detailed observations of events in the 17th century England, including the Fire of London, 1666, he noted them all. In fact, apart from

AWAIT!
SPIDERMAN
CARTOON
SERIAL
IN THE
FEBRUARY 2006
ISSUE OF
GOKULAM
THE Magazine for Children

BIRTH OF PETROLEUM

A drop of petrol had spilled out from dad's scooter. Sahana bent to wipe it off.

"Sahana, you want to wipe me off the face of the earth! But what about the milk sachet, tooth brush, pen and so many things that you use everyday?" asked the drop of petrol.

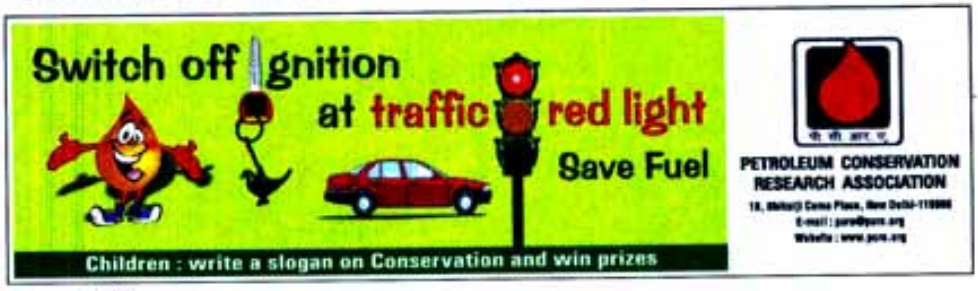
"What? What have plastics got to do with you?" Sahana was puzzled.

"Didn't you know? Plastics are made from petroleum!"

"Really?! Can you tell me more about yourself?" Sahana was interested.

"Sure! The use of petroleum began thousands of years ago. Egyptian mummies were preserved using petroleum based products. Over 5000 years ago, Asians, Sumerians and Babylonians used petro products, which surfaced from cracks in the earth, to lay roads and construct buildings. As early as 2000 BC the Chinese used petroleum to light lamps." The drop of petrol, paused and sighed.

"O! You are really great! Thanks! I've learnt so much from you today" gushed Sahana.



Registered with the Registrar of Newspaper of India under No. 49668/88 * Registered No. TN / CC (S) DN / 107 / 06 - 08 * Licensed to post without prepayment under PMG's Licence No. W.P.P. TN / CC (S) DN / 44 / 06 - 08 * Registered as a Newspaper in Srilanka

TRY SOLVING

123+456+13-48+534=?
6288+24-13x17=?

Your 8 year old child trained by ALOHA can do this calculation with in 30 seconds

ALOHA™
MENTAL ARITHMETIC
For ages 6 to 14

Great skills for small kids

Abacus & Mental Arithmetic Program for Kids between 4 - 6 years

ALOHA™
TINYTOTS
For ages 4 - 6

"Every Child is an artist..."- Pablo Picasso

- To streamline child's thinking in the form of art.
- To develop Greater concentration and focus.
- To enable enhanced creativity and the ability to visualize.
- To Improve memory retention and recall

ALOHA™
KIDS' ART
For age 3 - 12

ALOHA™
Speed MATHS
Non Abacus Program

- Learn to calculate 10 times faster.
- Solve problems 10-15 times faster.
- Saves time during Examination.
- Single step answer in multiplication.
- Reduces silly mistakes in examination.
- Helps to score more marks in maths.
- Easy to check all textbook problems.
- No borrowing in subtraction.
- No excess carry over in addition.
- No trial and error method in square root.
- Multiple digit divisor can be solved by single digit.

ALOHA INDIA

(A division of K K Academy (P) Ltd) An ISO 9001 : 2000 Certified Company
No.32, 1st Main Road, R.A.Puram, Chennai - 28. Tel : 044 - 24613262 / 6268
Email : info@alohaindia.com Web : www.alohaindia.com

Become our Franchisee & join the successful ALOHA family

For Students Registration Contact :

Tamilnadu: 044-24613262, 2461 6268, Kerala : 0484-262 7548, Karnataka : 98450 42790, Mumbai : 98926 30945, Mumbai : 98920 66899, (Speed MATHS) Maharashtra : 92251 10677, Madhya Pradesh : 93296 02000, Gujarat :98254 95517, Rajasthan :94140 08887, Punjab :98149 31628, Chandigarh & Haryana :98109 95282, Delhi : 98181 46028, Jammu & Kashmir : 9419006363, West Bengal : 93333 11934.